

THE NAVY.

HINTS

ON THE

RE-ORGANIZATION OF THE NAVY,

INCLUDING

AN EXAMINATION OF THE CLAIMS OF ITS CIVIL
OFFICERS TO AN EQUALITY OF RIGHTS.

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THE NAVY.

It is admitted very generally by those acquainted with the subject, that the Navy of the United States is defective in its organization ; that the laws, rules, and regulations by which it is governed require re-modelling, although complaints from the Navy may not have reached the public ear in tones sufficiently loud to attract attention. Grievances nevertheless exist.

To declare "there is no grievance, where there is no complaint," is a popular fallacy. "The argument," says Bentham, "amounts to this :—Nobody complains, therefore nobody suffers. It amounts to a *veto* on all measures of precaution or prevention, and goes to establish a maxim in legislation, directly opposed to the most ordinary prudence of common life ; it enjoins us to build no parapets to a bridge, till the number of accidents has raised a universal clamor."

"The silence of those who suffer may arise from despair, occasioned by seeing the fruitlessness of former complaints. The expense and vexation of collecting and addressing complaints "to Congress being considerable and certain," complaint will not commonly be made without adequate expectation of relief. Members of Congress can have but very slight motives for attending to the personal complaints of navy officers, which, whether redressed or not, cannot especially affect them. Many complaints are repressed by the fear of offending powerful individuals, and incurring resentments which may prove sadly injurious to the complainant.

We have high authority, however, for declaring that grievances do exist in the Navy, because complaints have been heard from two sources, and have been stated by the head of the Navy Department. A rapid examination of the nature and source of these complaints is proposed to be made in the following pages, by one who fancies he may possess a greater knowledge of the subject than is common among his fellow citizens.

To render the subject clear to civilians, it has become necessary to enter into some detail.

Complaints coming from a particular class of men in a society, accompanied by urgent solicitation for redress of grievances, wear the aspect of discord in the community to which the complainants belong. They seem to have lost sight of common interests, and to be contriving for their own special advancement and happiness, without regard to the interests and happiness of their associates. But these appearances are indicative of no reality in the present case. Surely a man may contend fiercely to retain his own purse, without exciting a suspicion that he wishes to plunder his neighbor. A man may resist infringement of his rights, without any wish to infringe the rights of others; and it is unreasonable to presume that classes of men are hostile to each other because one or two complain that their privileges have not been respected by the other classes, and, under a belief that their grievances arise from a want of recognition of their rights, strenuously urge that the rights and privileges of all classes should be defined by law.

It is gratuitous to suppose that civil officers in the Navy are seeking to degrade sea-officers because they ask to be placed on an equal footing as to rank, privilege, and the protection of law. They ask for nothing unreasonable, for nothing for which there is not abundant precedent and example.

“The medical department of the naval service requires talent, education and moral worth, properly to fill it, of as high order as in other branches of that service; but surgeons and assistant surgeons have no military rank. A modification of the law, by which medical officers in the naval service shall be entitled to rank in a manner similar to that prescribed in the army, might be beneficially made.”—*Report of the Secretary of the Navy* (DAVID HENSHAW), November 25, 1843.

“Great anxiety is felt by many of the surgeons and assistant surgeons, and of the pursers in the Navy, to have allowed them an assimilated rank. The corresponding officers in the army enjoy it without detriment to the service. I respectfully recommend the subject to consideration.”—*Report of the Secretary of the Navy* (JOHN Y. MASON), November 25, 1844.

Why do medical officers and pursers in the Navy of the United States desire to be clothed by law in a garb of military rank? What reasons probably induced two Secretaries of the Navy to recommend the subject to the consideration of Congress, the representatives of a republican people? They ought to have good grounds; and being in a position to possess full information on the subject, it is presumable that something more than mere caprice on their part, or the bare solicitation of medical men, has prompted this recommendation.

“The number of surgeons and assistants,” says Mr. Mason, in the same Report, from which we have quoted above, “the number of surgeons and assistants is found to be below the wants of the service. The Oregon had to proceed to sea, recently, *with a citizen surgeon, and the voluntary, but reluctant resignation of several passed assistant surgeons of great merit*, shows that the *duties required of those in service* are greater than they ought to be subjected to.”

Previously to discussing the questions submitted to us for examination, it may be well to ask, whether “several passed assistant-surgeons of great merit” have resigned commissions in the Navy, solely because the duties required of them were too arduous? That requiring from these meritorious gentlemen unremitting labor, toil without an interval of repose, exerted an influence on their decision to separate themselves from the service, there is no doubt; but it was probably the very smallest of the reasons why they resigned. They were disgusted by the treatment, the slights, contumelies and aggressions, each perhaps small in itself, which they had experienced during their service afloat. They found they were not on a fair footing with those employed by their country in the same service; that while others were protected in their social rights and privileges, by what is termed RANK, they were subject to the capricious condescension of men, not unfrequently, in no respect superior to themselves. They found their services, however readily they might be received in time of dreadful need, were not appreciated nor rewarded, either by pecuniary remuneration or the gratifying distinction of high consideration. They knew that the very men, whose lives they had, perhaps, rescued by professional skill, had pushed them aside with indecorous haste, in order to assert their official dignity, by being first to leave a ship’s boat, or the first to descend from one deck to another. They felt, that for months and years they had, on board ship, experienced treat-

ment that silently but not the less sternly said, "Sir, stand aside, you have no rank, consequently, you have neither the social rights nor privileges of, a gentleman, further than it may be my pleasure to grant!" From this decision they had no appeal; there was no alternative between submitting anew to this species of degradation or for ever quitting a service where self-esteem was daily wounded, where they found nothing to gratify pride or ambition, or to compensate them for the toil, privation, the petty annoyances, and the consequent wear and tear of spirit, which combined to render them unhappy.

Although there is no well-founded reason why this condition of things should continue, there is a strong and wide-spread prejudice existing in the service against granting assimilated rank to civil officers; that this prejudice would speedily cease, if the subject were calmly discussed by those who are arrayed in opposition, we are bound to believe.

To those unacquainted with usages which govern military communities, it may seem strange that any persons should ask for rank, a word which implies a great deal, not very agreeable to democratic ears. A few words will define and explain to them the nature of the question at issue.

By the term Rank, is meant *range of subordination; degree of dignity, eminence or excellence.*

Dr. Johnson defines an army to be "a collection of armed men, obliged to obey one man."

It is clear, a collection of men would be an ungovernable mob, unless each man were assigned a definite position in the scale of subordination; and, when the collection of men is very numerous, some must have assigned to them higher degrees of dignity, eminence or excellence, than others; all, however, inferior in this respect to the chief, the one man they are obliged to obey. To this definite position in the scale of subordination, the term Rank has been given. Therefore, the degree or extent of authority to command and control others in an army is always coequal with the degree of rank a man may possess. Armies are divided into divisions, regiments, battalions, companies, &c., and a title is given to the chief of each of these component parts of an army. The lieutenants, ensigns, sergeants, corporals and privates of a company, are subordinate to a captain; the several companies constituting a battalion are subordinate to one holding the rank of major; the battalions forming a regiment are subordinate to

a colonel; the regiments composing a division are subordinate to a general; and the divisions of an army are controlled by a major-general or commander-in-chief. Therefore the rank, degree of dignity, in the scale of subordination, is in the following order, namely, major-general, general, colonel, major, captain, lieutenant, ensign, sergeant, corporal, private.

No matter whether the army pertain to a democracy or a monarchy, the same, or at least similar degrees of rank are necessary to its harmony and efficiency.

A Navy is nothing more nor less than an army afloat, equipped for fighting on the high-seas. Although the titles given to the different degrees of rank in it are different, the same principle is observed in the arrangement of the scale of subordination. In the British Navy the following are the names of the various degrees of rank, the highest being placed first:—Admiral, vice-admiral, rear-admiral, commodore, captain, commander, lieutenant, master, mate, midshipman, gunner, boatswain, carpenter, &c.

Instead, however, of being divided like the army into companies, regiments, divisions, &c., the Navy is constituted of vessels varying in size and in military force. The ship's company is divided into companies or divisions, each commanded by a lieutenant of the Navy; and for this reason, lieutenants in the Navy assimilate in rank with captains in the army. A sloop-of-war, carrying a crew, rank and file, of two hundred, is the appropriate command of a "commander" in the Navy; and probably it is because the force of a sloop-of-war in a degree assimilates to that of a battalion, commanders in the Navy assimilate in rank with majors. Frigates, carrying four or five hundred men, are the appropriate commands of captains; and this naval force being comparable to that of a regiment, captains in the Navy assimilate with colonels in the army. In the Navy of the United States, by law, captain is the highest title of dignity; but by usage, which has grown up from imitating the British, when a captain commands two or more vessels, he is styled commodore: and although this title is temporary and ceases with the command, courtesy gives to captains who have once commanded squadrons the title of commodore for the remainder of their lives. By the regulations of Her Majesty's Navy, the office of commodore is also a temporary appointment, in the British service.

It will be seen then, that rank confers authority to command according to its degree; and in order to keep constantly before the

military community, and to impress it with the importance and dignity of the various degrees of Rank, certain insignia or badges are worn to designate it, and certain ceremonies, salutes, and precedence have been adopted in all armies and navies. This attaches importance to the officers in proportion to their elevation on the scale of subordination, and is the foundation of discipline.

In an Army or Navy, every man's social position and relations are determined by his rank ; in a word, without a certain degree of rank, no man is recognized as being entitled to the privileges of a gentleman ; and whenever they are accorded to an individual possessing no rank, it is a courtesy or condescension to his personal merits. As an illustration of this point, a case may be stated : if a Lieutenant in the Army had a brother who was a Sergeant in the same service, but in a different company, no matter what might be the merits of that brother, the Lieutenant could not introduce him to any other Lieutenant or Captain or to his Mess, without committing a breach of etiquette. The same would be true, if the brother were a Boatswain or Gunner in the Navy. A midshipman who would associate on terms of friendly intimacy with a quarter-master, boatswain's mate, or seaman, would subject himself to the charge of "ungentlemanly and unofficer-like conduct," and possibly to trial by court-martial. It is no uncommon expression, that this or that officer "degrades himself by too familiar association with his inferiors." Deference is paid to the uniform, the insignia, and to the rank, without recognizing the individual man bearing them. Rank, and its trappings, are, in military communities, what great wealth and its insignia are in civil life ; they secure respect and deference and obedience from all, without inquiry as to the moral or real worth of individuals.

The several classes of rank, or in other words, the several grades of officers named above, do not of themselves constitute a navy, although they form a series of grades growing one out of the other in a line of promotion. They are the skeleton of the service, the aristocracy of the navy, with which other branches are compared. To render a Navy efficient, it must embrace a corps of Marines, without which the fighting appointments are incomplete. Next in importance, from the liability of naval men to disease and injury, is efficient medical and surgical advice ; and for this reason a medical corps is attached to it. To keep an account of and issue, when required, the necessary clothing and provisions, and pay all

persons employed, a corps of pursers has been added ; the duties of purser, although not professional, are frequently performed, in the smaller vessels, by commanding officers, but says the Secretary of the Navy, " they are sometimes involved in apparent defalcations, for want of knowledge of accounts, and of the required forms of vouchers." Chaplains form another grade of commission officers. Besides these grades, holding permanent appointments, there are engineers and naval instructors ; and secretaries to flag officers, clerks to captains, commanders, &c., who are temporarily appointed by the officers for whom they write.

Medical officers, pursers, chaplains, naval instructors (Professors of Mathematics ?) secretaries, clerks and engineers, have no rank whatever. They are termed civil officers, although they live strictly under military law, and are subject, in the same degree as others, to all its penalties. Consequently, they are placed in the anomalous position of being subject to all the restrictions and inconveniences of military rule in the Navy of the United States, while they are left without any of the advantages of rank, and unprotected by law in any personal rights or privileges.

Civil officers are frequently associated with sea-officers on special duties, and on all occasions of this kind, without regard to the nature of the duty, the former are always required to yield precedence to the latter. If, for example, the government desires information as to the necessity, cost, or degree of repairs a vessel may require, or her fitness or unfitness for repair, &c., it is common to associate two captains, or two other sea-officers, with a naval constructor, who constitute a board of "survey" to examine the question. The sea-officers are named first in the order calling the survey, and according to the custom usually observed by committees, the first named should act as chairman, and prepare the report. But it sometimes happens, from the merest accident perhaps, the sea-officer is unacquainted with the matter, and is ignorant of the price of and quantity of materials required, and is unable to estimate the number of days' labor which may be requisite to work up the materials ; in this case, the naval constructor, who has no rank, must supply the necessary information, to enable the chairman to report ; or, what is the common course, the naval constructor himself prepares the report, which the others sign. It is true perhaps, *qui facit per alium facit per se*, but men should not be required to put forth as their own, information which they de-

rive from one they regard as an inferior, at least officially. The same thing happens when pursers are associated with sea-officers to examine the quality of clothing or provisions. It was not an uncommon practice, in ships abroad, when the condition of a man or officer as to his health, or degree of disability arising from wound or injury, was to be determined, to associate together to examine the question, two lieutenants and one surgeon. The lieutenants, of course, claim superiority of rank, the surgeon having none; and, being the majority, have it in their power to decide whether the man's health is good or not, or whether the wound or injury in question, is or is not a cause of disability. A commission of the same grades was also appointed to determine the quality of surgical instruments, drugs, medicines, &c. As few lieutenants pretend to superior knowledge of matters of this kind, the whole subject was left to the surgeon; but if he should think proper to withhold from them information which is his peculiar province to possess, they are placed in an awkward position. It once happened, a surgeon expressed his opinion that the health of a seaman required he should be sent home from a foreign station. Two lieutenants were associated with him, and the board, thus constituted, was directed to ascertain and report the man's precise condition.

"Well, doctor," said one of the lieutenants, "what shall we say?"

"That is for you to determine, gentlemen," replied the surgeon; "I have made up my mind on the case—but you are a majority."

"But, doctor, you know perfectly well, we cannot tell anything about the man's disease, without your assistance."

"Then why did you not state to the captain, that it was not your province to solve questions requiring knowledge of the science of medicine and surgery to determine. If I were directed to form an opinion of the condition of the ship's sails or rigging, I should respectfully represent my ignorance of such matters, and on this ground request to be excused from obeying the order; for however much confidence I might place in the judgment of the boatswain or sea-officers associated with me on such duty, I should be unwilling to participate in the responsibility of our report—to accept a share of credit, or bear a part of the censure such a report might bring. But you are ready to sign anything I may think proper to write in this case, without possessing the requisite knowledge to enable you to judge of the propriety of my opinion."

There should be no room for occurrences of this nature. Naval constructors should be held directly responsible for the building and repairing of ships; captains and commanders for their management when built; surgeons and pursers for what peculiarly belongs to their respective provinces.

In the Army of the United States, as well as in the Armies and Navies of European nations, it is different; in them the rank, rights and privileges of civil officers are defined and respected equally with the rank, responsibilities, rights and privileges of the military grades.

As a model, for the purpose of more fully explaining the subject, we will refer to the regulations of the British Navy, although we are far from regarding everything we find in them as binding upon us to imitate; nor are we prepared to say they cannot be made better. We have copied a great deal from the old naval laws of England, and unfortunately have not kept pace with their improvement, but in too many instances preserved what is most useless and offensive.

“The Queen’s Regulations” and “Admiralty Instructions for the government of her Majesty’s Naval Service,” are embraced in an 8vo. volume of 695 pages; they are dated January 1, 1844.

The first chapter of the “Queen’s Regulations” relates to the classes and denominations, and the armament and manning of her Majesty’s ships; all vessels of war, no matter how small their dimensions, are denominated ships in her Majesty’s Navy, a practice which might be profitably imitated by us.

The second chapter treats of rank and command, and the relative rank of officers of the Navy and Army. (APPENDIX B.)

The officers of her Majesty’s Navy are divided into two branches; namely, a military branch, and a civil branch.

They are of the “undermentioned denominations, and shall” rank and take precedence in the following order:

IN THE MILITARY BRANCH.

Flag Officers,	Masters of the Fleet,	Masters’ Assistants,
Commodores,	Masters,	Naval Cadets,
Captains,	Mates,	Gunners,
Commanders,	Second Masters,	Boatswains,
Lieutenants,	Midshipmen,	Carpenters.

CIVIL BRANCH.

Director General of the Medical Department of the Navy,	} To rank with, but after Commodores.
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Medical Inspectors of Hospitals and Fleets,	}	To rank with, but after Captains under three years' seniority.
Secretaries to Flag Officers, commanding in chief,		
Deputy Medical Inspectors of Hospitals and Fleets,	}	To rank with, but after Commanders, and with each other as here mentioned.
Chaplains,		
Secretaries to Junior Flag Officers, and Commodores of the First Class,	}	To rank with, but after Lieutenants and Masters, and with each other as here mentioned.
Surgeons,		
Paymasters and Pursers,	}	To rank with, but after Mates.
Naval Instructors,		
Assistant Surgeons,	}	To rank with, but after Masters' Assistants.
Clerks,		
Clerk's Assistants,		To rank with, but after Cadets.

"The Warrant Officers, namely the Gunners, Boatswains, and Carpenters; First Engineers, Second Engineers and Third Engineers of Steamships, to rank with each other as they are here mentioned, but subordinate to those before specified, and with those of their respective classes, according to the dates of their first warrants."

Gunners, Boatswains, Carpenters, and Engineers, are appointed "by Warrant;" Naval Instructors, Midshipmen, Masters' Assistants, Clerks, Naval Cadets, and Clerks' Assistants, "by Order," and all other officers "by Commission."

"The following officers and Warrant Officers, are alone to assume the military command of a ship, in the order in which they are named, as under :

Flag Officers,	Mates,
Commodores,	Second Masters,
Captains,	Midshipmen,
Commanders,	Masters' Assistants,
Lieutenants,	Gunners,
Masters of the Fleet,	Boatswains,
Masters,	Carpenters."

The above quotations from the Queen's Regulations show that the position of every officer employed in her Majesty's Navy, no matter whether belonging to the Military or Civil branch, is clearly defined in the scale of subordination. There can be no conflict for the military command of a ship (any vessel), between the officers of the two branches. The Director General of the Medical Department of the Navy, who ranks as a commodore, can never aspire to the military command pertaining to that grade or any other. This is an important point to remember, as we shall recur to it in the sequel.

The relations and precedence of the several classes of officers are not defined in the Navy of the United States, by any existing

regulation. When questions of precedence have been discussed, various principles for their solution are referred to; some have contended that the amount of pay assigned to each officer, settled his position, and it has been urged for this reason, that a commanding officer is entitled to more emolument than any one serving under him; others have assumed that the order in which the names of officers are placed on the Navy Register, is indicative of their true place in the scale of subordination.

According to that annual publication, the several classes of officers of the Navy of the United States stand in the following order; the marine corps, an essential part of the Navy, naval constructors, navy agents, and naval storekeepers, are omitted in the following table, although included in the Register.*

<i>Commission Officers.</i>	{ Captains, Commanders, Lieutenants, Surgeons, Passed Assistant Surgeons, Assistant Surgeons, Pursers, Chaplains,	<i>Appointed by Warrant or Order.</i>	{ Professors of Mathematics, Teachers of Languages, Boatswains, Gunners, Carpenters, Sailmakers, Engineers, Secretaries, Clerks.
<i>Warrant.</i>	{ Passed Midshipmen, Midshipmen, Masters, Masters' Mates.		

If, in imitation of the British Regulations, we divide the above-named grades into a military branch, and a civil branch, and still preserving the order in which they are placed respectively on the Register, the branches would stand as follows:

* The Marine corps consists of the following grades:

Colonel, Lieutenant Colonel, Majors,		Captains, 1st Lieutenants, 2d Lieutenants.
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The Civil Officers who do not serve afloat:

Navy Agents, Naval Storekeepers,		Chief Naval Constructor, Naval Constructors.
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ENGINEERS.

Engineer in Chief, Principal Engineers, Chief Engineers,		1st Assistant Engineers, 2d Assistant Engineers, 3d Assistant Engineers,
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MILITARY BRANCH.

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| 1. Captains, | 7. Masters' Mates, |
| 2. Commanders, | 8. Boatswains, |
| 3. Lieutenants, | 9. Gunners, |
| 4. Passed Midshipmen, | 10. Carpenters, |
| 5. Midshipmen, | 11. Sailmakers. |
| 6. Masters, | |

The first three on the list are appointed by commission, all the rest by warrant.

CIVIL BRANCH.

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| 1. Surgeons, | 7. Teachers of Languages, |
| 2. Passed Assistant Surgeons, | 8. Engineers, |
| 3. Assistant Surgeons, | 9. Secretaries to Commanders
of Squadrons, |
| 4. Pursers, | 10. Clerks. |
| 5. Chaplains, | |
| 6. Professors of Mathematics, | |

The first five of the civil grades are appointed by commission ; the remainder by order or warrant.

The commissions given to officers of both branches are alike in their tenor. (See APPENDIX G.) To be appointed by commission, the individual must be nominated by the President, and the nomination must be approved by the Senate of the United States. Warrants are simply signed by the President, and are not subjected to the approval of the Senate. Appointments by order emanate from the Secretary of the Navy ; commanding officers usually appoint their own secretary or clerk.

In the military branch, the regular line of promotion is confined to the first five grades, and promotion is from midshipman upwards. Masters, in point of importance to the efficiency of a ship, are superior to midshipmen of every description ; but, unless for special reasons, are not brought into the line of promotion. Of the twenty-one grades in the Navy, but five have a perfectly defined place in the scale. To these five grades belong all the power, all the privilege, all the rights, all the honors, all excellence, and a full share of all the salaries and emoluments in the Navy, as far as written law informs us.

These five grades constitute the aristocracy, the privileged classes in the Navy ; though it is necessary that this should be so to some extent, there is no reason why they should be exclusively privileged. To these five grades belongs a *bonâ fide*, real rank, which must always be paramount in the higher grades. To them is entrusted

command, and with it, of course, the right and duty of punishing, within legal limits, all subordinates. It is a great power to entrust in the hands of a man, the right of inflicting stripes at discretion, even to a limited extent; and it is natural that the possession of so much power should add to the respect and deference of those who may possibly fall under his displeasure. If the commanding officer happen to be capricious in temper, moderate in intellect, and self-sufficient, he can render all under him unhappy and uncomfortable, and especially those whose rights and privileges are not defined by law or regulation. Instances can be cited of commanding officers so far forgetting their own dignity and what is due to others, as to profanely curse, in loud tones on the quarter-deck, surgeons and other civil officers of the Navy. Such instances are rare, it is true; but they have occurred, and may occur again.

Midshipmen are admitted into the Navy between the ages of fourteen and sixteen years. All the qualification required to obtain an appointment, is political influence, or the favor of those in power. By law or regulation no degree of primary education is requisite. It is usual, however, for those appointed to be more or less instructed in the simple elements, or at least the rudiments of a common English education. To remedy this deficiency in some measure, "twenty-two" professors of mathematics are maintained in the Navy, at a salary of \$1,200 a year each, or in other words, it costs the government \$26,400 annually, to instruct 356 midshipmen in those elementary branches of mathematics deemed sufficient to enable them to read Bowditch's system of navigation:—in round numbers, preceptors' fees amount to upwards of \$74 annually for every midshipman in the Navy, a sum sufficient to pay the annual cost of a collegiate course. Besides professors of mathematics, the government provides three teachers of languages. In addition to all this, every midshipman receives in pay from \$300 to \$473 yearly, and has little or nothing to offer in return, except the promise or prospect of some day being capable of performing the duty of a lieutenant; or in other words, he is paid while receiving his professional education at the cost of the government.

It should be borne in mind, however, that this must always be the case; there is no private patronage for the profession of a soldier, nor for one possessing those qualifications, as a profession, which are requisite to the accomplished naval officer. The military seaman and soldier are necessary to every well organized

government; and to possess them, the government must provide, at its own cost, the means of professional instruction. Whether the plan pursued by the government of the United States for forming naval officers, is the most economical and most efficient, forms no part of our present inquiry.

Having served two or three years at sea, the midshipman is instructed for about six months at the Naval Asylum near Philadelphia; and, now having been five years in the Navy, he submits to an examination by a board of captains in the Navy and a professor of Mathematics. The subjects of the examination are Seamanship, Naval gunnery, Navigation, and those branches of Mathematics necessary to enable him to practise the art with the assistance of Bowditch's Navigator. If approved, he is eligible to a lieutenantancy, provided there be a vacancy for him to fill. This examination is vastly important to the midshipman, *but very much more so* to the government, because he is on this occasion assigned a relative position on the Navy Register, according to his professional merits in the opinion of the Board, and the promptness or rapidity of his first promotion depends, in some measure, on the position he at that time acquires, as all vacancies are filled by the first in order in the inferior grades.

Owing to the mistake of appointing a superabundant number of midshipmen, the vacancies occurring in the grade of lieutenant from deaths, dismissions, and resignations, were entirely too few to furnish places for all who had served five years, and passed their examination; and, unless the number of lieutenants were very much increased, it is evident that a large proportion of these young gentlemen, qualified, in the opinion of the Board, to be lieutenants, were doomed to remain still as midshipmen. As a remedy for this state of things, the grade of passed-midshipman was created, and in consideration of their natural age, they were assigned a pay of from \$600 to \$823 annually, according to the nature of their service; but their duties remain the same, so that a passed-midshipman's position is a kind of official purgatory, in which he patiently awaits the death, dismissal or resignation of those above him, for four or five years.

At the expiration of nine or ten years after admission into the service, the days of "school boy midshipman" having passed away, he attains the rank of lieutenant in the Navy, and is transferred from the steerage to the ward-room of ships of war. While yet

a passed-midshipman, he may perform the duties of master for a time; but with this exception, until the day of his promotion as lieutenant, he can render but a very inadequate return to the government for the money spent on him. Now his services become important, because he has acquired professional knowledge which may be *confidently* called into requisition by his country—a knowledge, be it remembered, acquired amidst the perils, privations and discomforts of a sea-life; and which is perhaps the more valuable in proportion to the obstacles to its acquisition.

So important is the mental culture of the military officers of the navy considered by the government, that a library containing a large proportion of professional book (relating to seamanship, natural philosophy, international and martial law), is provided for every ship—yet, we may be permitted to remark in passing, notwithstanding the meagre means and opportunities afforded for systematic education, a large proportion of our officers have a respectable knowledge of books, and a few of them have a character in the service for scholarship and scientific attainments. Some creditable additions to the light literature of the country have been made by officers of the navy.

To indicate the high importance to the country of liberal education for midshipmen in the navy, it is enough to state, that they in time become the lieutenants, the commanders, the captains, and the commodores of the Navy, and in the course of their service may be called on to manage delicate affairs with foreign nations, especially during the prevalence of war, existence of blockades, &c.; and in time of peace, they are our representatives abroad, the best samples of the nation that some foreigners ever see. But this is not the sole or most important reason why midshipmen should have an efficient education. When advanced in rank and in years they become, in fact, the judicial authorities as well as the legislators of the Navy; and in the capacity of Chiefs of the Bureaux of the Navy Department, indirectly control the policy of the country, as far as it relates to naval affairs. From his temporary connection with it, the Secretary of the Navy, the head of the Navy Department, is rarely sufficiently intimate with the details of the service to decide any important question without reference to the chiefs of the Bureaux. To them he necessarily looks for advice in many instances, and from them he receives the various yearly estimates and many of the suggestions embodied in his annual reports. In

corroboration of this statement, the writer refers to a strong instance, showing how little the Secretary of the Navy could rely on his own information. On the 24th May, 1842, Congress, by resolution, directed the Secretary of the Navy, with the assistance of the Attorney General of the United States, to prepare Rules and Regulations for the Government of the Navy. In his report, dated January 13, 1843, which accompanied the rules thus *seemingly* prepared, the Secretary says: "Much of this duty, however, related to matters so purely technical, that *I did not venture to rely on my own views in regard to them, but availed myself of the best information I could obtain from officers of the Navy*, on whose intelligence, experience, and knowledge, I could rely with confidence. The code now presented is the result of their labors conjointly with my own. The rules, as prepared by myself, were submitted to their revision and correction, and others were added by them, on subjects which none but seamen understand, and which, for that reason, I had forborne to touch."* The propriety of these views, it is not the writer's object to discuss; they are referred to as illustrative of the importance of a high degree of education for midshipmen, that they may be well prepared when called on to give advice to a Secretary of the Navy, or perform the functions of a legislative committee.

The few points alluded to above are enough to show the high and honorable career lying before every midshipman in the Navy of the United States; and they show too, how natural it is for military officers in the navy, to become arrogant, self-sufficient, and unforbearing to others not of their class in the service,—from the circumstances in which they are placed by the usages rather than the laws or regulations of the navy. They cannot escape the influence, to a certain degree, of their education. They imbibe early, the impression they are the repositories of all rank and power, and consequently are exclusively worthy of confidence. The circumstances in which they are reared teach them, in too many instances, to regard a captain's commission as an instrument which not only confers rank, dignity, consideration and power, but also every kind and description of human knowledge; and especially as qualifying them as naval architects, engineers, and con-

* Document, No. 148, 27th Congress, 3d Session, Ho. of Rep.

veying to them full knowledge of civil architecture, particularly as applied to the building of hospitals and dwelling houses. It is generally admitted, as far as the writer is informed, that all the naval hospitals in the country, with a single exception, have been built without consulting any physician or surgeon in the country, under the immediate supervision of captains in the navy.

But this is not charged as a fault on them, for, being called on for their views and opinions by the Navy Department on all occasions, they might fairly infer that they were capable of any service whatever, without regard to its nature; and yet it would be unfair to imagine that they ever thought as the Irishman did, when asked if he could play the piano,—he was not certain of his capability, because he had never tried.

It is not to be concealed, but rather mentioned to their credit, that in several instances they have performed various extra-professional offices passingly well; yet this admission does not prove that the same offices would not have been far better discharged by those having the knowledge which peculiarly fitted them for such services. What they did of the nature referred to, was not passingly well done in virtue of the captain's commission, but is attributable exclusively to the natural ability of the man, for be it remembered, captains in the navy, like other men, possess various degrees of native endowment. While some are naturally below mediocrity in every point of view, many of them are brilliant men, and eminently worthy of the confidence reposed in them. They possess the qualifications which everywhere characterize the gentleman, and that high moral tone, the *pundonor*, which ought to be the attribute of every military man. But unfortunately for the country, owing to peculiar notions and usages, the highest qualifications are advanced no more rapidly than the most marked stolidity; advancement is regulated by the miller's rule, "first come, first served," as promotions to fill vacancies in the superior grades are made from the first on the list of the next grade below.

The career of a military seaman is a glorious career. He surely rises, though very slowly, in dignity and consideration, and last, though not least, his pecuniary reward increases from \$300 to \$4500 annually, as he passes from the foot of the list of midshipmen to the head of the list of captains, which he does in from thirty-five to forty years.

From what has been said already, it may be gathered that the rules which apply to the appointment and education of the military branch of the Navy are susceptible of being so modified as to benefit the country. As a contrast with our own Navy, let us refer to the Regulations which govern the British service in this respect.

The military seaman in the British Navy commences his career as a "naval cadet." To obtain this appointment, he must not be under 12 years of age, and he is required to produce a certificate from the surgeon of a flag-ship, that he is in sound health, free from defect of vision and every other physical inefficiency. "He must be able to write English from dictation, and be acquainted with the rules of common arithmetic, including the rule of three." The examination upon these subjects is to be made by a naval instructor in the presence of a captain. He is required to be provided with a quadrant or sextant.

To receive the appointment of midshipman, "he must have served two complete years in Her Majesty's Navy as a cadet," and be full 14 years of age. He must show to a Board of Examiners, that "he has a due knowledge of arithmetic, geometry and trigonometry, and a practical acquaintance with the use of the quadrant, &c. After having served two years as midshipman, he is examined "as to his progress in the knowledge of rigging of masts," &c., in seamanship and navigation.

To qualify him as a lieutenant, he must have attained the full age of 19 years, served six complete years in the Navy, two of which as midshipman, produce "certificates of good conduct from the captains he has served under, for six years, and log-books kept by himself, during the corresponding periods." He is again examined, and the examining officers "are to satisfy themselves of the ability of the candidate to take charge of a watch at sea, to manage a ship in all situations, to steer her, and to rig her, to get tops and caps over-head, to raise and secure sheets, &c., and keep a reckoning, to ascertain her position by observation; that he has a due knowledge of the elements of mathematics and of the theory of navigation, and of ascertaining the latitude and longitude, the variation of the compass, &c., by all the modes in use; and also a competent knowledge of practical gunnery; and can generally execute the various duties of a sea-officer. In the

examination, however, of a candidate while in England, his knowledge of navigation, astronomy and gunnery, need not be inquired into by the examining officers, as he will have to undergo those branches of his examination at the naval college, and on board the *Excellent*" (school-ship).

Before an officer obtains a lieutenant's commission in Her Majesty's Navy, he must have passed *five* examinations; but in the Navy of the United States, he is required to pass but *one*; to prepare for which, six months' study is usually enough to ensure success.

Which method is likely to produce the most efficient lieutenants; the British or the American? This subject is worth the consideration of our statesmen. Supposing the two systems to be followed out as they now exist in the two nations, is it not probable that the officers of the British Navy, as a body, will be superior in professional attainments to those of the Navy of the United States? The attainment of a lieutenancy in the British Navy is far more difficult than with us; but when attained, it is far more valuable to the possessor, as well as to the country.

All the advantages and inducements offered by the government of the United States to its citizens to become sea-officers in the Navy have been stated. It may be well to contrast the two services in this respect.

In our Navy the highest point to which a midshipman can reasonably expect to reach is the chieftainship of one of the bureaux of the Navy Department, one of which (the bureau of provisions and clothing) is a doubtful honor, in the opinion of a late Secretary of the Navy. Speaking on the subject of this bureau, the late Mr. Upshur said, in a letter addressed to the Hon. Mr. Evans, dated Feb. 12, 1843, *It is absurd to put a post-captain in this place. The duties of it require a merchant, and not a sea-officer. A post-captain qualified to discharge these duties, would not be qualified for much besides.*" From this opinion, however, the Senate of the United States differed, and on the death of Mr. Goldsborough, approved of his place being filled by a post-captain, which, all circumstances being considered, was perhaps a very wise decision.

The American midshipman has no place of repose to look forward to in advanced life; no half pay as a reward for long service; and he has not left him the consolation of knowing that,

in event of his death, even after attaining the highest grade, a decent provision is made by the government for his family. On the contrary, he knows that the support of his wife and children after his own death, must depend upon his thrift while living. It is possible, that a mercenary feeling may be engendered by this circumstance, and the officer, instead of looking to distinction as his sole reward, prefers such service as will increase his revenue, or decrease his expenses. At a time when pursers were remunerated by a per centage on sales of provisions and clothing to the men, it was esteemed fortunate for a sea-officer in command, to be "his own purser," because of the pecuniary advantage to him.

The English midshipman looks forward to an Admiral's flag, Knighthood, and even a place in the Peerage. The annual full pay of British sea-officers is as follows: Cadet, \$49; midshipman, \$156; lieutenant, \$910; commander, \$1,495; captain, \$1,992; commodore, \$5,475; admiral of the fleet, \$16,425. This rate of full pay is accompanied by half pay, extra pay for extra duty, a gratuity equal to one year's pay for his widow, besides a pension equal to the officer's half pay. The above is sufficient to indicate the scale of pecuniary reward in the British service, which, all things considered, is greater than in the Navy of the United States.

After passing through the subordinate grades, the sea-officers, as well as all others, are free from any pecuniary anxiety, either for the present or the future. A constant, definite, and certain reward is given for their services and privations. Every inducement is held out for exertion, and no barrier is thrown in the way.

But the scale of pay in the British Navy is adapted to the peculiar institutions of England. The amount of pay given to cadets and midshipmen is scarcely enough to support them, being for the latter only twelve dollars a year more than is received by seamen in our service. This circumstance is a bar to the admission of the sons of the plebeian poor; none but families belonging to the aristocracy, or wealthy classes, can afford to enter their sons as naval cadets. To increase the salaries of commanders, lieutenants, midshipmen and cadets, would have the effect of opening the British service to the inferior classes, and thereby one means of providing for the younger sons of aristocratic families would be cut off. Nine pence a day (eighteen cents), the pay of a naval

cadet, is too small to meet bills of tailors, shoemakers, washers, &c., and keep the young gentlemen in uniform clothing. A landsman's pay is \$74,75, and that of an ordinary seaman, \$84,50, yearly, while that of a naval cadet is but \$49 per annum. If pay was the only inducement to enter the British Navy, a boy had better be entered before the mast. But it is the policy of that wise government to make the great reward of naval service consist in distinctions, honors, titles and ribbons.

The British system would not suit our Republican Government. Taking into consideration the nature of our institutions and social condition, the pay given to officers in the Navy of the United States, cannot be reduced considerably, without closing it against the sons of all who are poor or in moderate circumstances. Even as it is, the pay is too small in many of the grades, to render appointments in them very desirable to those of small means. And we should be careful not to provide places of any kind under the government, which shall be desirable or available to the wealthy alone, lest we lay the foundation of a real, though untitled aristocracy. While the pecuniary reward to officers under a republic should be sufficient to permit every one of its citizens, no matter how poor, if his ability and education fitted him for the place, to serve his country, it should not be the sole inducement. Honorable distinction should be made to form part of the remuneration to those serving in the Army or Navy ;—in a word, a nice balance should be struck between glory and gold, so as to avoid the creation of mercenary feeling, or a sense of thrift, to provide for the widow and orphan children. Some system of rewards proportionate to the exertions, services, and abilities of officers, and others in the service, might be devised, which would result advantageously for the country.

Promotion and distinction should be made to depend in some little degree, at least, on the exertions and ability of the officer.

A certain period of active service should entitle him to repose for the remainder of his life, unless in time of war.

A certain permanent and definite provision should be made for his widow and children, the amount being based on his rank, length of service, and mode of death.

Such provisions or irrevocable enactments would in the first place be just to naval men, whose profession, as before stated, is one for which there is no private patronage, although absolutely

necessary for our government. Their education unfits them for all the pursuits, by which men thrive or even support themselves and families in civil life ; therefore, after their early days have been devoted to the Republic, they ought not be cast off in advanced life to shift for bread. They should have offered them every inducement to prefer the service to everything beside ; and if such provisions were made the officer would love the Navy in youth, in manhood, and in old age beyond every other pursuit, and nothing would ever tempt him to leave it. It would be his ambition and his glory to die with harness on his back ; and no peril, no privation, would be too great for him to attempt or undergo.

Thus far our remarks have been chiefly confined to the military branch of the Navy. We have yet a word to say in relation to the grades of officers composing the civil branch of the service. They have asked to be assigned a correlative or assimilated rank, that is, medical officers and pursers have expressed some anxiety on this subject. Its importance is felt by all civil officers.

Why do medical officers desire to be clothed by law in a garb of military rank ?

This question has been answered in part already. Because all personal privilege, respect, dignity and consideration, as well as authority, depend in all communities governed by military laws and customs on RANK.

To possess no recognised rank in such society is to be nobody ; few persons are reconciled to this species of degradation, and when circumstances compel them to submit to it, it is not the less keenly felt, nor are they the more disposed to acquiesce in what seems every day to be to them rank injustice.

The claims of medical men to consideration of a high order are unquestioned in civil life. So obnoxious is man to disease, injury, and suffering, that the profession of medicine is everywhere necessary, and everywhere its votaries are appreciated. The whole range of science falls within its limit, and all human knowledge is made to contribute more or less to its perfection. The science of medicine demands for its comprehension and successful practice an order of intellect as high, an education as perfect, a judgment as sound, and integrity and courage and moral worth as great as any other human pursuit. Speaking of physicians, Rousseau declares, " There is no condition which requires more study than theirs ; in every country, they are the most truly useful and learned of men."

Sir Wm. Blackstone assigns to physicians preëminence for "general and extensive knowledge,"—"a character," says he, "which their profession beyond others, has remarkably deserved." It is scarcely necessary to add, that this character, when deserved, is acquired at a cost of much labor, time, and expense; indeed, it has been truly said, that the education of members of the profession, if complete, will often consume as much capital as would afford them, without practice, a decent competency. Then the exercise of this noble profession is attended with as much toil, and requires as much self-denial and forbearance as any other, without exception. "No man but the surgeon," said Sir Astley Cooper, in a reported conversation, "no man but the surgeon, knows the exhausting demands which are made, not only on the mental, but also on the physical constitution of the practitioner."

Physicians, as a class, have "education, popular respect and confidence, and maintain that kind of intercourse with society which affords the best opportunities for acquiring and exerting a potent influence for good or evil. While this observation holds true as to large cities, it is still more applicable to those who reside in small towns and villages; and it is among these, the great body of the profession is scattered. The influence of a physician in a situation of this sort, is not simply that of one respectable and intelligent citizen. It is the influence, frequently of the *leading man* in the place, as to literature and science, and of one who enjoys the confidence and affection of the community beyond any other individual in it, unless it may be the clergyman, and he is by no means an exception in all cases. It is highly honorable to the profession, that they are usually disposed to employ their great influence on the side of virtue and the general good. No class of citizens are more prompt, generous, or efficient in abating social evils, establishing public charities, fostering schools, and promoting judicious schemes for the substantial improvement of society."*

The fact of a man being a member of the medical profession is no barrier to his advancement in other pursuits in civil life. All honors are open to him, both in and out of the profession. Look to the Legislative Halls, to the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, and proof enough will be found, of the

* Sermon to medical men, by the Rev. H. A. Boardman.

estimation in which medical men are held, and of the confidence reposed in them by the people.

The fame of medical men forms a portion of the fame of their country. John Morgan, Shippen, Rush, Adam Kuhn, Wistar, Benjamin Smith Barton, Hosack and Physick, and Dorsey, and Dewees, are instances of members of the medical profession, whose labors and reputation have contributed to the common character of our country. A brilliant portion of the reputation of England, has been attained by the labors of her medical men. The names of Hunter, Jenner, Akenside, Abernethy, and Astley Cooper, are familiar everywhere; and Ambrose Paré, Boyer, Dupuytren, Larrey, Baudelocque, Broussais, Alibert and others, have done as much for the reputation and fame of France. We might, too, refer to members of the profession now living, Americans, Englishmen, Frenchmen, Germans, whose reputations are the pride of their respective countries.

In England, Holland, France, Italy, Germany, in a word, throughout Europe, the science of medicine is an avenue to distinction and honor; and in England, knighthood as surely rewards high merit in the medical profession, as in the profession of arms, or in any other.

In the armies and navies of Europe, military and naval rank belongs to medical men as well as to others employed in the service of their country. But we hear of no opposition, no outcry against medical men on this account.

Why should members of the medical profession be excluded from consideration, confidence, and honor, while they are freely accorded to men of another profession in the Navy of the United States? Is it supposed that medical officers of the Navy are of an inferior caste, and therefore not to be regarded as equals with members of the profession in civil life? There must be some other reason.

A writer (presumed to be a sea-officer), in an article, opposing the establishment of a rank for medical officers, published in a southern periodical, thus generously expresses himself on this point: "Upon the professional ability of the naval surgeons as a class, any praise that can be offered here, is of disproportionate value. The statistics of our public ships, which, during their protracted absences on the great ocean, encounter every variety of climate, and are visited by every form of disease, bear the highest

testimony to their knowledge and unwearied assiduity. In them, the sea-officer recognizes, through his long wanderings, the instructive companions of his mind, and the watchful guardians of his health, and as such, he acknowledges to them an obligation of deep gratitude and reverent respect.”* Similar testimony can be found in the archives of the navy department, if it were necessary to corroborate the above opinion.

Owing to the multiplication of medical schools in the United States, and the facility of obtaining degrees, consequent upon an unworthy spirit of rivalry among them, the collegiate diploma ceased to be, in a measure, a guaranty of medical knowledge. For this reason, it became necessary to disregard the diploma of candidates for admission into the navy as well as the army, and establish the present system of rigid examination of all who sought commissions. To this system, the medical corps of both services are mainly indebted for their high character. The approval of the army or navy boards is now generally considered the surest guaranty of professional education in the United States. Only about one-third of those examined are approved for assistant surgeons; and it not unfrequently happens that assistant surgeons are rejected when examined five years subsequently, for promotion to surgeons.

They are not refused an assimilated rank because the merits of medical officers in the Navy are inferior to those of their professional brothers in civil life. The writer, whose remarks have been quoted above, seems to regard the claim to rank as new, and therefore unreasonable.

By reference to the volume of American State Papers on Naval Affairs, we find that the petition of the naval surgeons is neither novel nor entirely unreasonable.

In a letter addressed to the naval committee of the Senate, dated January 23, 1817, the Hon. the Secretary of the Navy recommends the establishment of a definite rank for medical officers. Under the same date, the Board of Navy Commissioners express the following opinion: “It seems to be just that, inasmuch as the duties and responsibilities of Navy Surgeons call for an equal degree of professional knowledge, as well as respectability of character, with those of the Army, they should be put *on the same footing*, with respect to *rank, pay, and emoluments*.”

* Southern Literary Messenger, for August, 1843.

The letters here referred to were accompanied by the following memorial, or expression of opinion, dated 1816, at New York and Boston, and signed by some of the most distinguished naval captains of that day.

“SIR :—We have heard with pleasure that it is the intention of the medical officers of the Navy to address a respectful memorial to you, requesting that measures might be taken by the Department to obtain for them a *definite rank* in the service, an increase of pay, and the establishment by law of the rank of Hospital Surgeon. It has also been suggested to us, that the opinion of the senior officers of the Navy, on the justice and expediency of those claims, might not be without benefit. We feel it, therefore, as a duty incumbent on us, to state that we consider the medical department of such great importance to the Navy of our country, that no reasonable measures ought to be omitted which could have a tendency to retain in the service the professional ability of those gentlemen, who, by their experience, knowledge, zeal, and humanity, have procured the esteem and confidence of those with whom they have been associated; and we also beg leave to express our belief, that no reasonable inducements would be objected to by Congress, to procure for those who are engaged in a perilous service, and who are constantly exposed to the diseases of all climates, the best medical aid which the country affords. To effect this, it must be obvious that the rank and pecuniary emolument of medical officers ought to bear some proportion to what gentlemen of professional eminence would be entitled in private life; and we consider that justice requires they should, at all events, receive a compensation and rank equal to what has been enjoyed by medical officers in the Army. On the same principle, we would most earnestly invite your attention to the establishment of the rank of Hospital Surgeon. To the Army, *eight* officers of that rank are assigned by law; to the Navy, *not one*. And let it be recollected that, whilst the hospitals of the former are supported at the expense of the Government, a fund has been formed *from the pay of the latter*, for the support of such institutions as may be found necessary for their comfort and accommodation. And, sir, we beg leave to express our hope, that you will be pleased to give your aid in promoting the interests of the Surgeons and Surgeons’ Mates in the Navy, by endeavoring to obtain for them a more

eligible and advantageous situation than the present rules and regulations of the Navy admit of.

We have the honor to be, with great respect,
Your obedient and humble servants.

(Signed,)

SAMUEL EVANS,
JOSEPH BAINBRIDGE,
S. ANGUS,
JAMES RENSHAW,
GEORGE W. RODGERS,
JAMES T. LEONARD,
EDWARD TRENCHARD,

JAMES JONES,
L. WARRINGTON,
WILLIAM BAINBRIDGE,
ISAAC HULL,
D. DEACON,
ALEX. S. WADSWORTH.

TO THE HON. THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY."

Those gentlemen whose names are in italics, are still in the Navy; the others have been gathered to their fathers.

The reasons of such men for improving the condition of medical officers of the Navy, given so soon after a period of war, when the services and importance of well educated medical men in the Navy were fresh in their memories, ought to be worth respectful consideration, although more than a quarter of a century has since passed away.

The following letter, addressed to his friend in the present House of Representatives, by a distinguished ex-member of Congress, after personal observation on board of one of our ships of war, during a long voyage as passenger, strongly sets forth the difficulties which beset civil officers in the Navy for want of a definite rank.

"RIO DE JANEIRO, November, 1843.

My Dear Sir:—I snatch a few minutes from the many duties devolving upon me, on my recent arrival here, to drop you a line on a subject, which I believe important to the honor and prosperity of the Navy. You recollect you and I differed on some points connected with the details of the service. I am now, *from experience*, more than half converted to your opinion; but I will now only trouble you with one point, although I may trespass upon you with more general views at some future day. Great difficulties arise almost hourly from the disorder and want of system in the civil branch of the Navy. The medical corps have complained (and I think justly) of their *want of a distinct military rank, an assim-*

lated rank, not, as is commonly supposed, for the purpose of conferring on them any private authority, of a partial character, but for the following reasons. 1st. Civil officers are now isolated individuals, in a rigid and exacting military organization, and are held, with the utmost rigidity, to its most minute and technical exactions, and for any violation of them are tried and punished by military tribunals; and yet are left without any of the advantages of definite rank. 2d. The whole private existence of every member of the military organization of the Navy, even extending to the minute intercourse of life, is regulated by definite military rank, even to the seat which each shall occupy at the table, the order in which each shall be waited on by domestics, &c. 3d. Without a definite military rank, the civil officers are left entirely at the mercy of a close and powerful organization, which, from its very nature, education and habits, regards but too often *all* civil professions with a feeling bordering on contempt, which are left, without protection, to the insults of rude, illiterate, or inconsiderate men, or dependent upon the gratuitous patronizing courtesies of gentlemen. This state of things is considered by the civil officers as humiliating and unjust, and is productive of much ill feeling; and often of bloodshed. The civil officers ought to be protected from this, and secured the position of respect awarded them in private life, and to which I think them, as a class, eminently entitled. Let them have their military position defined, as is the rank of corresponding officers of the Army. I understand, that the matter will be brought to the attention of Congress during your next session, and I am very sure that your good judgment and friendship for the Navy, will induce you to give it, at all events, your usual discriminating attention. For myself, I have been, for the last four months, almost constantly in the association of Naval officers, besides having the experience of a long voyage on board a vessel of the Navy, and I am, after a close observation, most thoroughly convinced of the propriety of the suggestion I thus humbly make, and which your better judgment will mature. Excuse this wretched scrawl, for I am laboring under very considerable debility from long illness, and believe me now, as ever, your sincere friend."

That it is the interest of the government and of every officer and man in the Navy, to have in the naval service the best medical ability the country affords, no one who has considered the sub-

ject will deny. What officer or man, when wounded or sick in a ship in the midst of the ocean, would consent to risk his life by submitting to the professional directions of an imperfectly educated surgeon? At sea, professional consultation with men of fame and experience is not to be attained; the surgeon of the ship must be the sole resort, and if he be ignorant, limbs may be sacrificed which ought to be preserved, and lives lost that might be saved. Of the importance of a high grade of medical information in the Navy, the Department is well aware. Among the very first things thought of by commanding officers, when preparing a vessel for service, is to secure a medical officer; they will cheerfully go to sea without a purser, because his duties may be discharged by any honest man possessing an ordinary knowledge of accounts, or by the commander himself; with fewer lieutenants than the complement of the vessel, or without a master, because their duties may be performed by passed-midshipmen; but the duties of the medical officer can be discharged properly only by a medical officer. Indeed, so important is the presence of a medical officer considered, that a vessel of war rarely leaves port without one, and the Hon. the Secretary of the Navy finds in the sailing of a vessel with a civil practitioner in the place of a legally appointed medical officer, a fact of sufficient importance to be stated in his annual report. In those rare instances when vessels of war, from urgent circumstances, have gone to sea without a surgeon, complaints have found their way into the public prints, and they have been made the ground of insinuating charges of cruelty against those in authority. And is it not censurable, to send two, three or four hundred men to sea without sending with them some one capable of ministering to them in the event of wounds or disease, unless it cannot be avoided?

To secure a corps of competent medical officers, men who will possess the confidence and respect of those with whom they are associated on the ocean, proper inducements must be offered. Few men of worth can be found, who will willingly submit to a severe test of their qualifications, at the risk of reputation, without a hope of improving their condition. Experience has shown that the remuneration now given for medical services in the Navy is not in itself sufficient to retain in the Navy men who have the smallest prospect of success on shore. Even after passing their examination for promotion, medical officers of great merit, in considerable numbers, have resigned their commissions in the past few

years. On returning to private life, they have assigned in their respective districts and neighborhoods, the reasons which induced them to quit the Navy, after they had been approved for promotion and had to wait the lapse of time only, to be made surgeons. No matter what these reasons were specifically, the nature of them has been such as to render medical service in the Navy less popular in the profession. So unpopular had it become on one occasion, that when assistant surgeons were much wanted in the Navy, there was not a single application on file in the department, on the day of appointing members for a board of examination. To remedy this difficulty, it was announced in the newspapers of the day, that a board of naval surgeons would be assembled for examining candidates for admission into the Navy as assistant surgeons, and a kind of printed circular was issued from the Navy Department, stating the regulation for admission, as well as the salaries of surgeons and assistant surgeons in the Navy.*

This brought some fifty applications, and, I am informed, of the whole fifty to whom permits were granted, only five competent for assistant surgeons were procured.

It has been said, that seventy permits were granted lately to young medical men to be examined by the medical board not long since adjourned,—and of the seventy, not one-half appeared. Of those examined sixteen are reported in the newspapers as having passed.

To keep up the requisite number of medical officers in the navy one of two measures seems to be necessary. Either the condition, the position, of medical men in the Navy, must be improved, or the standard of qualification must be reduced. There seems to be no other course. Whether it will be more to the interest of the government, and of those serving in the Navy, that the sick and wounded shall be treated by incompetent men, or to maintain a high standard of professional education, and pay a higher price for it, by giving a better position and better prospects to medical men in the Navy, let those most immediately interested decide. Those who are fully competent to be assistant surgeons in the Navy ought not to despair of success in private life.

Of the civil grades in the Navy, that of pursers is generally

considered next in importance to the medical corps. The pursers have also expressed to the Department a desire to have assigned them an assimilated rank in the Navy.

The claims of this respectable and meritorious body of officers are much inferior to those of the medical officers, though, it is believed, not the less just on this account. Pursers' commissions, which always have been eagerly sought, have been given in the past few years as a sort of remuneration for political services, or at least, obtained through political or party influence. Formerly, however, it was different, and as in the British Navy, purserships were given as a reward to those who had served long and faithfully as secretaries to flag-officers, or clerks to captains. They became in this way intimately acquainted with the usages and routine of sea-life, and their capabilities were fully ascertained. In those days, pursers received a small salary, but were allowed a per centage varying from ten to fifty per cent. on various articles they supplied to the crew. The nett annual profits arising from this source, were estimated at ten dollars for every individual on board, so that, under ordinary circumstances, the situation of a purser of a frigate, with a crew of five hundred, was worth upwards of five thousand dollars a year. From the nature of the source from which this salary was derived, the situation of purser was by some few regarded as a low or inferior one, and various contemptuous epithets were used by sea-officers to designate them. But to employ a slang phrase of their own, the pursers very philosophically, though jocosely declared, they were contented to commute "glory for gold." But, notwithstanding all this, the pursers were sincerely respected, and were always popular among navy officers. They had it in their power to confer many favors, and were generally kind, which it was their interest to be, because from having no rank they were forced to pursue a conciliating course, or suffer inconvenience in the discharge of duty, from those with whom they were associated.

But those days have passed away. They now receive fixed salaries, and the power of pecuniarily accommodating navy officers has been taken away,* but they are not the less in want of an

* The sixth section of the act, regulating the pay of pursers, approved August 26, 1842, is in the following words: "*And be it further enacted, That it shall not be lawful for a purser in the Navy to advance or*

assimilated rank ; though as a body their integrity of character has secured to them the respect of the Navy generally, and many warm friends in it ;—yet the prejudice of the service against assigning them rank, is perhaps even stronger than against the claims of medical officers.

The duties of purser are important and responsible. He has charge of all the provisions and clothing supplied by the government for the use of the crew, and keeps an account of their sale and disbursement. He also keeps the pay accounts with government of all persons on board, and of course is responsible at times for large sums of money. He should therefore have a competent knowledge of accounts and book-keeping generally, but beyond this, no very high degree of knowledge is requisite. Any person competent to manage an ordinary retail business, in groceries or dry goods, might, with a few days' instruction, perform the duties of the office.

Of all the grades of officers in the Navy, pursers alone are required to give security for their integrity, which is *primâ facie* evidence that no man can obtain a purser's commission who is not believed to be honest. None but men of character can obtain bondsmen, to the amount of, it is believed, \$25,000, for the honest and faithful execution of their duties.

In the British Navy, they are entitled "Paymasters and Pursers," and rank below surgeons, and "with, but after, lieutenants and masters." They receive a small pay, which is made up by a small per centage on the amount disbursed by them respectively.

A candidate for a commission of paymaster and purser is required to have served three complete years as secretary to a flag-officer, or clerk to a captain, or clerk to a secretary of a flag-officer. He is examined by three paymasters and pursers, in the presence of a captain or commander. The examining officers are directed to satisfy themselves that the candidate "is well versed in the rules of common arithmetic, and understands the method of keeping the books and accounts, and more particularly the victualing accounts, of Her Majesty's ships : that he is acquainted with

loan any sum or sums of money, public or private, or any article or commodity whatever, or any credit, to any officer in the naval service, under any pretence whatever." See Navy Register.

the manner of calculating the various species of provisions, and other articles, and of making up a paymaster and purser's account, and that he is in all respects qualified to discharge the duty of paymaster and purser of one of Her Majesty's ships."

On being appointed or ordered to a ship, every paymaster and purser is required, "with two competent sureties, to enter into bond to Her Majesty for the faithful discharge of his trust," in the sum of from one to seven hundred pounds sterling, according to the size of the vessel.

In the English Navy, there is but one grade or rank of purser; but persons serving faithfully and satisfactorily in this capacity, are eligible to other places of profit and trust under Her Majesty's government.

Had the President of the United States possessed the power to gratify them, it is possible that pursers in the Navy of the United States, owing to their respectable standing and political influence, would have been assigned an assimilated rank, and precedence of medical officers. But, inasmuch as the Constitution of the United States gives to Congress exclusively, the power "to provide and maintain a Navy:" and "to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces," it is questionable, whether rank of any kind in the Navy can be assigned without the authority of Congress.

Nevertheless, they may possibly obtain precedence of medical officers, if Congress in its wisdom should think (if our information be correct), as pursers do on this subject. It is argued that the amount of salary received by them is far greater than that paid to medical men in the Navy, and this is a sufficient reason why pursers should have precedence. Although it is an axiom, which, like most proverbs, is to some extent true, that "money makes the man," it may be gravely questioned whether this argument should have the weight claimed for it.

Paymasters in the Army of the United States rank as majors, and therefore as commanders in the Navy. As pursers in the Navy perform the duty of paymaster, besides that of quartermaster, it may be argued that in the Navy they should rank as commanders, at any rate after a considerable period of service. Whether the fact that, while pursers have no lineal rank, and never can be brought into the line of promotion, paymasters and quartermasters in the Army, besides their assimilated rank as majors,

also, generally, possess a lineal and real rank, either as lieutenant, captain or major, from which grades these staff-appointments are made, lessens the analogy between paymasters in the Army and pursers in the Navy, the writer leaves to the decision of those who are better informed.

Be this as it may, the policy of giving to the occupation of an accountant precedence of a learned profession, is more than doubtful. In a question of this nature, it is not the men, but the nature of their employment, which ought to engage our consideration. It is the policy, or it should be the policy of a republic, to encourage learning and the learned; for unless this be done, few will seek the halls of science, or burn the midnight oil, for the mere purpose of being learned, especially in a country where the energy of the great mass of the people is directed to money-getting! It is not in the nature of man to toil without a motive, and as a general rule, this motive is either a hope of wealth or a hope of distinction; the latter feeling commonly predominates in the man of learning or of letters. Make book-keeping a stepping-stone to higher honor and distinction than science in a republic, and that moment the number of the votaries of knowledge will diminish; and all who consider distinction preferable to wealth will become book-keepers, because the knowledge of book-keeping will be then sufficient to encourage the hope of both fame and fortune.

Qualis rex, talis grex.—The people will learn to think like the king or supreme authority of the land; and obtain in a measure the habit of appreciating all things in the same way. If the government, by its acts, regard science and letters, or the votaries of them, with a degree of contempt, or estimate them of little value, it is not to be expected that the people will be disposed to differ from such high authority. To be a learned jurist, an eminent divine, a skilful physician, or sound philosopher, will scarcely be the ambition of any man in a nation where knowledge is regarded at a very low estimate.

That pursers in the Navy should have an assimilated rank, the writer has no doubt. Their duties frequently bring them in contact with the sea-officers, who often have it in their power, if so disposed, to thwart the purser in performing duty, by refusing him, for example, the use of a boat at the time necessary to bring stores and provisions on board ship. And, as in the case of all civil officers, he requires assimilated rank to define his social position in the military community,

As in the grade of master, there is no promotion to a higher grade; the duties of the young and the old in these grades being the same, except perhaps they are more onerous in a ship-of-the-line than in a sloop of war. If the labors of a master in a ship-of-the-line are greater than in other situations, he has the gratification of a higher rate of pay; but in no other respect is his condition changed; no matter whether he has held his warrant five or fifty years, his rank is still the same, from beginning to the end.

Whether employed in a schooner or ship-of-the-line, the nature of the purser's duties is the same; although a greater number of accounts are necessarily kept in the last than in the first description of vessel, the same degree of intelligence, information, or pursership knowledge, is requisite. The labor and responsibility, however, increase with the number of men composing the crew. Under existing laws, there are no gradations among pursers, and the youngest and oldest have equal claim to rank. How far it might be advisable to make two grades of pursers, assigning distinctive rank and duties to each, is worth investigation. In the British Navy, the duties of purser in schooners and other small vessels, are performed by "Clerks in charge." Possibly some pecuniary advantage might accrue to the government, by imitating the English practice in this respect.

A plan might be devised, requiring that every candidate for the situation of sub-purser, shall be over 21 years of age, and shall have served at least two years at sea, in a vessel of war, as clerk to a purser, or one year as clerk to a commanding officer, and one year as purser's clerk—that he shall be examined by three pursers as to his knowledge of accounts. Sub-pursers might be appointed by warrant, and assigned to store ships, brigs, and schooners, with an assimilated rank as master. Sub-pursers would not require the assistance of clerks in the discharge of their duties.

Pursers should be appointed by commission from the grade of sub-pursers, and be required to have served in that grade at least four years, and produce satisfactory evidence of ability to keep accounts, &c. A line of promotion would be in this way created, consisting of purser's clerk, sub-purser, and purser. These three grades might be assimilated in rank with masters' mates, masters, and lieutenants. Whether it may be necessary to assign to them an assimilated rank as commander, ten or fifteen

years after the date of their commissions as pursers, in order to bring into this corps of officers from among our citizens, a higher description of education, intellect and moral worth, depends on the solution of another question. Are the duties of purser satisfactorily performed? We have no reason to suppose they are not; and therefore infer, that pursers possess as much education, intellect, and knowledge of accounts, as their office requires. Are the rewards now offered by the government sufficient to induce entirely competent citizens, in sufficient numbers, to supply all the wants of the service in this respect, to accept pursers' commissions. It is rare that a purser's commission is refused when offered, and resignation of commission by pursers is equally rare, on the ground that the salary and position in the Navy are not sufficient remuneration for the services and amount of knowledge required to perform them.

Pursers receive the following salaries while waiting orders, or on leave of absence.

When first commissioned, and for the first five years, per annum,	\$1,000
Second five years after date of commission,	1,200
Third five years, " "	1,400
Fourth five years, " "	1,600
Twenty years and upwards " "	1,800
When employed at the Navy Yard, either at Boston, New York, Norfolk or Pensacola,	2,500
When employed at the Navy Yard, either at Portsmouth, Philadelphia, or Washington,	2,000
When employed at any other naval station within the United States,	1,500
When employed on board the receiving ship, at Boston, or New York, or Norfolk,	2,500
On board receiving vessels at other places,	1,500
When employed on board of vessels commissioned for sea service, as follows :—	
Ships of the line,	3,500
Frigates, or razees,	3,000
Sloops, or steamers of first class,	2,000
Brigs and schooners, and steamers, not of the first class,	1,500

By examination of the above table, it will be seen that when

employed, the lowest compensation is \$1,500, and the highest is \$3,500. In the British Navy, the lowest compensation of a purser may be set down at \$750, and the highest at \$4,300; but this is exclusive of half-pay, &c., and includes also the pay of "clerks in charge."

Pursers in the Navy of the United States, when serving in ships-of-the-line, are authorized to employ a clerk at \$700 per annum; and when serving in a frigate, or in the Navy Yard at Boston, New York, or Norfolk, or in sea-going vessels of a larger class than sloops of war, they are authorized to employ a clerk at \$500 per annum.

The lowest duty pay given to assistant surgeons, is \$950 per annum; and the highest, after having passed an examination for promotion, is \$1,200.

The lowest duty pay of surgeons, is \$1,250; and the highest a surgeon can receive, after having been commissioned as a surgeon, is \$2,700. But, before this annual salary can be received, the medical officer who is admitted to-day, must serve, in all probability, thirty years; and must be discharging at the time the duties of Fleet Surgeon.

Under the existing laws, it will be found that two men entering the Navy on the same day, one as purser and the other as assistant Surgeon, one versed in accounts and the other an approved member of a learned profession—at the end of sixteen years, we shall possibly find the medical officer in charge of a large hospital, at Boston, New York, or Norfolk, receiving \$1500; and the Purser at the same station, receiving, if employed, \$2,500, and if waiting orders, or on leave of absence, \$1,600. In the mean time, the medical officer has served ten years as assistant and passed assistant surgeon, messing, when at sea, in the steerage or cockpit; while the Purser has enjoyed the privileges of the ward room from the first hour of his service.

By comparing the pay of pursers with that of medical officers and other civilians in the Navy, and assuming the ground that the highest pay is entitled to the highest rank, it will be clear that pursers are entitled to precedence of all civil officers in the Navy. But if, without inquiry into the subject, we take the British Navy as a guide; or if we assume the republican ground of holding out encouragement to science and professional knowledge, or desire to draw into and retain in the Navy, the best medical talent and

skill the country affords, our policy will be to give medical men the highest consideration compatible with the general interests of the Navy.

Another reason for assigning to surgeons an assimilated rank of higher grade than to pursers, is found in the fact that their duties bear a closer analogy to those of the military branch of the service. During battle, the surgeon is not unfrequently called upon to exercise his office on deck, and whenever sailors and marines are landed for hostile purposes, they are invariably accompanied by a medical officer. But military service is neither expected nor demanded from pursers.

Surgeons in charge of extensive naval hospital establishments, where all the inmates, men as well as officers of different grades, are accustomed to military rule, and are often restive under any other, are in need of a degree of rank which lieutenants and all inferior to them are accustomed to obey and regard with respect. In this position, the surgeon's responsibilities are in a degree comparable to those of a purser, for he has moveable property under his control, amounting to thousands of dollars.

The position of the surgeon of a large naval hospital, is one which occasionally calls forth expressions of envy or jealousy from inconsiderate young sea-officers; and sometimes even from older heads, which ought to be wiser. Very many sea-officers have stoutly contended, that naval hospitals should be regarded as the appropriate command of old and worn-out captains, commanders, and lieutenants. They appeal to the practice in England, but forget the difference of the policy of the two countries. Greenwich Hospital is governed by a naval officer of the military branch of the service, it is true; but it is equally true, that while in England, all manner of sinecure situations are created for the aristocracy, in our country, the people firmly, honestly, and wisely set their faces against all such mere nominal situations of profit. They do not recognize the notion of paying two officers, only one of whom is capable of performing the duties, nominally divided between two.

It is totally unnecessary to pay an extra-officer \$2,500 or \$3,500 a year to reside in a hospital, because he is a commander or a captain in the Navy. As well might it be urged, that a commander in a sloop of war should have associated with him a captain to watch over the discipline of his vessel.

Give to surgeons, assimilated rank of commanders in the navy, and no event will ever transpire which will furnish an argument for placing a sea-officer in control of a naval hospital, either in or out of the United States. Are surgeons in the navy, men? or are they women, in male attire? that they are deemed incapable of disciplining and keeping in military subjection two, three, four, or five hundred sick, wounded, or decrepid men, and the attendants and servants of a hospital establishment.

The sole connection that should exist between hospitals and sea-officers, is very limited. The surgeon of a hospital should not be authorized to admit any patient without the approval of the captain of the Navy Yard or station to which the hospital is attached, and he should be required, as he now is, to report to the captain, from time to time, the names of the patients, &c., in his charge. In a word, there should exist the same connection between a hospital and the Navy Yard, as exists between a vessel of a squadron and a flag-ship, and no more.

Everything belonging to a hospital establishment, buildings, grounds, furniture, attendants, should be under the exclusive control of the Bureau of medicine and surgery, and the immediate command of the surgeon.

An old naval captain, long since dead, in a fit of displeasure, once cried out to a hospital surgeon, "By —, sir, I'll let you know, sir, you shall not light a fire, or put one out, without my permission." But, happily, the feeling and opinion indicated in this sentence, it is our pleasure to believe, are fast disappearing, under a conviction, gradually gaining ground, that medical men are not unlike other men to rule and direct any number of men placed under their care—that surgeons in the Navy have not "less mind, less education, less discretion, less courage, resolution, dignity, or consistency of character, or less fitness" generally, than any other men in the navy, to conduct hospital establishments. That surgeons are deficient only in rank, is solely attributable to the organization of the Navy. There is certainly not more zeal, more anxiety, for the public welfare, or more patriotism among sea-officers than among surgeons and other civil officers? And it is presumable, in their peculiar province, surgeons are as much worthy the confidence of the government as any other grade.

According to the reports of British travellers, the habit of over-estimating ourselves, is prominent among our national foibles. The ex-

aggregated value set upon the dignity or consideration belonging to the grade of lieutenant, as well as that of commander, by sea-officers, and their mental habit of depreciating, or even regarding contemptuously, every man connected with the Navy, who is not a sea-officer, is probably the reason why their prejudices are opposed to granting assimilated rank of any degree whatever to civil officers. But, were they to examine the subject carefully and coolly in all its bearings, they would find little or no reason to oppose the petition of medical officers to be placed in the Navy, on the same footing as their professional brothers in the Army. They would find no objection to receiving an educated physician, in the capacity of an assistant surgeon, with all the respect and consideration they freely accord to masters ; and after he had served five years, and passed his examination, and reached an age of from twenty-six to thirty-three, they ought not to swallow hard, to see him officially entitled to the same respect and consideration as themselves. Nor could they reasonably consider it any privation to themselves, that surgeons should be entitled to the *social* distinction of commanders, especially as they ask for nothing beyond. If the medical officers were seeking *real, bonâ fide* rank, authority to command and control them as sea-officers, then sea-officers might justly complain.

It is not reasonable to suppose that men of undoubted standing and influence, often leaders, in one community, can be transferred to another, and be contented and happy as inferiors to most, if not all their new associates. If these new associates have assigned them a definite grade or rank by law or custom, as in an army or navy, their situation is still more irksome, and they will naturally look forward to a favorable change of condition. Men soon accustom themselves to elevation, but cannot learn to bear comparative degradation amongst their fellow-men, and be content.

It has been suggested, that the sole and exclusive rank which can be given to surgeons in the navy, is an assimilated rank with lieutenants ; that assistant and passed assistant surgeons, must be, consequently, assigned a rank below, because, otherwise lieutenants would not like it. It has been suggested, that surgeons, after ten years' service, might be assimilated in rank with commanders ; but it is objected to, on the ground that some lieutenants serve eighteen or twenty years as lieutenants, before they attain the real rank of commander. Does it follow, on the same principle, that because mas-

ters are not in the line of promotion, that no other officers should be ? On what sound principle is it established that the grade of lieutenant shall be made the measure or criterion, for regulating the rank and standing of civil officers in the navy ? “ Think’st, because thou art virtuous, we shall have no more cakes and ale ? ” Shall no man be entitled in the navy to better fortune or more rapid advancement than a lieutenant, who, be it remembered, is on the lowest firm step of his professional ladder ? And because this is the fact, the surgeon, who stands at the summit of his professional stairs, must remain for ever at the level of a lieutenant’s starting point ?

The assimilated rank of all surgeons in the army, places them on a level with commanders in the navy.* Lieutenants in the navy must and do recognize, therefore, army surgeons as holding an assimilated rank with majors in the army, and with commanders in the navy ; but it would be absurd, if lieutenants of the navy should discover themselves to be aggrieved on this account, and insist that surgeons of the army should be reduced in rank to their own level.

It has been contended too, that because some remain lieutenants fifteen years before reaching the grade of commander, that it would be unfair to give the assimilated rank of commander to surgeons until they had been commissioned also fifteen years. On the same ground, it would be unfair to admit to the table of lieutenants, the chaplain or purser, or lieutenant of marines, or any civil officer, until after such officer had served nine or ten years in the steerage, because the lieutenant had served that length of time in the steerage as midshipman, before he was admitted to the lieutenant’s table. Would it not be absurd, to insist that every individual entering the navy in an official capacity, without regard to his age or avocation, should be held at first on a level with midshipmen ? and should rise only *pari passu* with them in dignity or consideration ? As well might the commodores and captains find it an insupportable grievance, that persons were called to rule over the whole navy, to be their superiors in every respect (as secretary of the navy), who had never served, like them, in the inferior grades.

Let us for a moment look at the question—even on the assumed

* Appendix A.

ground that the grade of lieutenant must be the limit beyond which none shall pass who have not served or lived as long as they.

Sea-officers usually enter the navy as midshipmen about the age of fifteen. Medical officers, pursers, and chaplains never under twenty-one; but more commonly, about the age of twenty-four. Sea-officers serve as midshipmen and passed midshipmen nine or ten years, so that they are twenty-four or twenty-five years of age when promoted to lieutenants; they serve as lieutenants from fifteen to eighteen years, and are then commanders, at the age of from thirty-nine to forty-two years. The assistant surgeon enters at the age of twenty-four or twenty-five, and serves from nine to ten years, before he is promoted to be a surgeon; so that he is from thirty-three to thirty-five years of age, before he reaches, on the principles assumed, the assimilated rank of lieutenant; according to one proposition, he is to remain ten years more, or until he is forty-five years old, before he is to be assimilated in rank with commanders; and according to the other proposition, he must wait fifteen years, or until he is fifty years old, before he can attain this nominal consideration; beyond which he dare not look, notwithstanding, by this period of life, the sea-officer has passed through the grade of commander, and is a captain.

No surgeon on the list has been less than ten years in service.*

The longest period any captain has been in the Navy is 46 years. On an average, they have been thirty years in passing from midshipman to captain, and about twenty-five to commander.

So that if *time* in service be taken as the basis for assigning

* There are 68 Surgeons in the Navy:

2 have been in the service 44 years.		5 have been in the service 21 years.	
2	35 "	3	20 "
1	34 "	3	19 "
3	32 "	6	18 "
3	31 "	7	16 "
2	30 "	10	15 "
1	29 "	2	13 "
1	26 "	7	12 "
1	25 "	6	11 "
2	24 "	1	10 "

rank, and the age of twenty-one be taken as the starting point, neither medical nor other civil officers will lose much.

The oldest and youngest lieutenant are paid the same, but the pay of medical officers is graduated according to length of service. The lieutenant of fifteen years' standing, receives no more than the lieutenant just commissioned, namely, \$1,200 per annum; but the surgeon of fifteen years' standing receives \$1,600, although he has but \$1,000 when first promoted, and during the first five years of his commission. It is believed that lieutenants, as a class, do not find this difference of pay between themselves and surgeons a ground of complaint or heart-burnings. If they do, how terrible must be their sufferings on account of the pay received by pursers. Yet, they would have no better reason to complain, if medical officers should be assigned the rank they ask.

Rank, as has been stated already, is not a reward for merit or exertion. To sea-officers, it is the necessary consequence of length of days; the boy who enters as midshipman to-day, will, as certain as he lives, and leads a moderately virtuous life, become in time the senior captain on the list. Seeing our natural repugnance to death, and that suicide is both criminal and disgraceful, there is not much credit gained by living to be even a very old man, especially in situations in which emolument, respect and honors increase with age.

Boys at school esteem it an honor "to go up head" of the class for superior spelling; but it is our pleasure to believe that no such juvenile feelings enter into the calculations of either sea or civil officers of the Navy, as regards the question of assimilated rank.

The next grade of sea-going civil officers bearing commissions, embraces chaplains. They receive, when employed, \$1,200; and when on leave of absence, \$800 per annum. They mess in the ward-room.

If the example of England, whose established church system necessarily assigns the highest places of dignity to her clergymen,* if the example of England be followed, the chaplain, if ordained, or possessing a university degree, should have precedence of all civil officers. But as we have no church establishment con-

* Appendix F.

nected with the government ; as some have questioned, on constitutional grounds, the propriety of employing chaplains in any department of the government, it is very doubtful what their assimilated rank and precedence ought to be. Of one point, however, the writer is entirely satisfied. Some course ought to be adopted to tempt a more efficient class of clergymen into the service. It has been asserted, with what absolute truth the writer does not know, that when a congregation becomes oppressed by the habitual tediousness of an inefficient clergyman, a chaplaincy in the Navy or Army is sought for him ; a call not unfrequently accepted. For activity, energy, mental character, and professional ability, throwing altogether out of the question, religious, moral, or affectionate attributes, the grade of chaplains in the Navy is inferior to any other grade of full grown men in the service.

If nothing else can bring religious zeal into the service, the propriety of offering higher pay, and an assimilated rank, ought to be considered. That the presence of a properly qualified chaplain on board ship, exerts a beneficial influence on its discipline, there is little doubt.

The next grade is composed of professors of mathematics, who are warrant-officers. The utility of this class of officers in the Navy, under existing usages, is very gravely questioned. Although they receive much higher pay, mess in the ward-room, and bear the imposing title of professor, as a class, they are not much better qualified than the race of men who were, in years gone by, found discharging the same duties in the steerage of our national ships, under the more familiar and less pretending title of "school-masters."

The propriety of abolishing the offices of chaplain and of professor of mathematics in the Navy, and substituting another office in their place, is worthy of serious consideration. Under the name of naval instructor, or of chaplain, if preferred, an officer might be appointed, who would unite the functions of teacher and clergyman ; there is not room for both officers in the same vessel.

The qualifications of naval instructor or chaplain should be tested by a scrutinizing examination. The candidate for a chaplaincy should be an ordained clergyman, of not less than twenty-five years of age ; he should possess sound health, and be free from physical defects, on which points the most satisfactory evidence should be required ; he should be capable of teaching all branches

of mathematics that midshipmen are required to study, and possess a classical education. A man thus qualified, would be most useful in a ship-of-war, and would find ample occupation, and a rich field for clerical labor.

Or, if naval instructor be the title preferred, the candidate for the office should possess the same qualifications, except being in priest's orders. But in place of that, he might be required to discharge the duties of chaplain by reading sermons, church and funeral services, as might be found desirable.

Naval constructors, engineers, naval storekeepers, secretaries and clerks, should also be assigned an assimilated rank, corresponding to the importance of their avocations respectively, and to their position in civil life, and in other services.

The Queen's regulations are not limited to the officers in the Navy, but define the position and rights of all, from the smallest boy in the ship to the admiral of the fleet.* Means have been taken to improve the condition of seamen. Books and school-masters are supplied, and laudable efforts seem to be making for increasing their knowledge. There is nothing in the nature of our naval service to forbid us the imitation of the example ; on the contrary, it is in accordance with the broad principle of obtaining the greatest good for the greatest number.

It is vain to hope for the general improvement of any community, while one or two classes exclusively enjoy legal protection, and all the other classes belonging to it are left at the mercy of the few possessing power and authority, undefined by law or regulation. There are wide-spread grievances among the majority of persons serving in the Navy. Many remain silent through fear of personal interest ; a few have complained, and the complaints of others will naturally, though slowly follow ; and, it is pleasant to believe, that in time all will obtain redress. A separate act will redress a separate grievance ; and as a result of partial legislation, the statute-book of the Navy will present a collection of conflicting laws, unless certain fundamental principles be laid down for the gradual re-organization of the Navy.

The building of ships can at any time be accelerated, as occasion may require ; but the professional education of sea-officers requires

* Appendix C.

the same period for its completion, both in war and in peace. A thousand ships might be built, before one captain could be grown and educated to command one.

All legislation for the Navy should look to securing competent talent, and the kind of knowledge required for the service.

Boys should not be admitted into the Navy to be midshipmen at once. They should be required to serve at least two years as cadets. Before admission, they should be examined as to their health and physical ability, and should possess a due amount of elementary knowledge.

After two years' service, cadets should be examined for midshipmen's warrants; and on passing, should remain as extra-cadets until vacancies occurred. If rejected, they should cease to belong to the Navy.

The midshipmen should be limited to the very smallest number capable of meeting the wants of the service, and be kept constantly on duty, until sent to a naval school, previous to a second examination, which ought to be regulated by a high standard of qualification.

By a plan of this kind, the country would be relieved of all not likely to become meritorious, or at least efficient, officers. Cadets who failed to pass, would be still young enough to begin some other career in life; and passed-midshipmen would more rapidly pass to the grade of lieutenant. Promotion would be more rapid through the whole of the grades, and there would be greater incitement to action, and more energy everywhere.

The laws should be explicit; definite and certain punishment should be awarded for every degree of offence. All grades of commission officers should be eligible to sit as members of courts-martial; and no officer should be tried by any court in which his grade, or his vocation at least, is not duly represented.

The precedence and rank of all classes separately, should be clearly pointed out, and the rights and privileges of all from the side-boy to the admiral should be equally respected, and the interests of all protected. The result would be happiness, harmony, and efficiency everywhere, from the fore-castle to the cabin. And last, though not least, the whole Navy would be united as one man.

There should be uniformity in the discipline and internal regulations of all ships of the Navy, so that an officer or man who had

acquired the routine of duty in one vessel, would be acquainted with his place and duty in every other.

Various attempts have been made to devise a suitable code of regulations, but all have heretofore failed, either through haste or for some other reason.

It has been most judiciously suggested that the officers of the Navy themselves are the only persons capable of performing this service. A board composed of three or more officers from every grade, might be assembled; the three or more officers of each grade should prepare a plan or code of regulations requisite for the government of their grade, and then one of them should meet one from each of the other grades, and form a board or council for reducing the several distinct codes to one, harmonizing through all its parts. The regulations thus prepared, together with the propositions from the boards of three or more, should be submitted to the department. After examination, the whole should be sent without alteration, with such remarks as might be necessary, either objective or approving, to Congress, for its action.

The Secretary of the Navy might cause such a report, or collection of opinion to be made, without transgressing his authority or infringing the constitutional rights of Congress, and in this way very much facilitate legislation, and produce a thorough and efficient reorganization of the Navy.

To illustrate the idea of the writer, although of course imperfect in details, and perhaps erroneous in many particulars, he ventures to submit a skeleton or programme, for reorganizing the Navy.

Although military rule must be despotic in its nature, all persons subject to it may be advantageously protected in certain personal rights and privileges. Now, however adverse to our republican institutions it may seem, military or naval government must be essentially aristocratic in form, both in the social and duty relations of its subjects; consequently, the official members of all Military bodies of all governments, even of those pertaining to Republics, compose a species of aristocracy, in which there must be definite grades and ranks, without which there can be no discipline:—without discipline there can be no vigor or efficiency in any military or naval service. To define the boundaries of the several grades and ranks of the military body in their respective personal rights, privileges and authority, imparting as much strength and incitement to exertion as possible to every grade, without weakening any, so as

to produce a harmonious action through all its parts, seems to be the problem to be solved.

In all human affairs, it is desirable, that all acts should be skilfully and well performed ; and in none is it more essential to success than military or nautical life. Hence the necessity of devising and pursuing that course of policy which will secure for the service of the government in the several grades associated with sea-officers, the best talent, skill, and general qualification the country affords. A sea-life is far from being in itself attractive or agreeable ; and for this reason, it becomes necessary to offer men of high tone, education and standing in civil life, greater inducements to go afloat than they meet to stay on shore. It is generally supposed, that a respectable means of support, added to the chance of reputation and glory which enure to naval success, is a sufficient inducement for persons ambitious of such distinction, to leave their friends and home, and encounter the perils and privations of sea-life in ships of war. But this glory is out of the reach of the associate grades ; and for them other attractions must be devised, which, owing to the general necessity existing always in large populations, is perhaps the more readily accomplished. There are very many persons fully competent to discharge the duties required, who enter the naval service more from necessity than choice ; but does this circumstance require them to be the unprotected subjects of an absolute power, which is not unfrequently exerted wantonly, capriciously, and unnecessarily ? And is it necessary, or does it contribute to the common weal or harmony in the nautical community, to define by law, the personal rights, powers and privileges of one description of officers alone ; and leave to their unchecked discretion, the personal comfort and standing of all other grades ?

No aristocracy can be expected to move on harmoniously, if the laws define and protect the rank of only one of its composing classes ; particularly, if that aristocracy, as is the case in our Navy, is to be filled up from among a people who refuse to acknowledge any legal rank or title in civil life. Although, as we have stated above, military and naval communities must be aristocratic in character, there is nothing in the nature of military institutions, which requires one class of officers exclusively to possess rank—on the contrary, all classes of officers necessary to constitute an Army or a Navy should possess a legally defined rank of some kind.

PLAN FOR RE-ORGANIZING THE NAVY.

1. THE officers of the Navy of the United States shall be divided into two branches, namely, a military branch and a civil branch.

2. They shall be of the undermentioned denominations, and shall rank and take precedence in the following order :

MILITARY BRANCH.

Admirals,	} Flag Officers.	Passed Midshipmen,
Vice Admirals,		Masters' Mates,
Rear Admirals,		Boatswains,
Captains,		Gunners,
Commanders,		Midshipmen,
Lieutenants,		Carpenters,
Masters,		Sailmakers,
Second Masters,		Cadets.

CIVIL BRANCH.

Hospital Surgeons,	}	To rank with but after captains under three years seniority.
Surgeons,		To rank with but after commanders.
Passed Assistant Surgeons,	}	To rank with but after lieutenants, and with each other as here named.
Pursers,		
Chaplains,		
Secretaries to Flag Officers,		
Assistant Surgeons,	}	To rank with but after masters, and with each other as here named.
Naval Instructors,		
Sub-pursers,	}	To rank with but after lieutenants.
Chief Engineers,		To rank with but after masters.
First Assistant Engineers,		To rank with but after masters' mates.
Second Assistant Engineers,		To rank with but after boatswains.
Third Assistant Engineers,		To rank with but after passed midshipmen.
Clerks,		

3. Navy agents, principal engineers, naval constructors and naval storekeepers, shall rank as commanders ; and master-mechanics, at navy yards, shall rank as masters' mates.

4. The following officers and warrant-officers are alone entitled to assume the military command of any vessel or navy yard, and they are entitled to take command only in the order in which they are named, as under :—

Admirals,	} Flag Officers.	Masters,
Vice Admirals,		Passed Midshipmen,
Rear Admirals,		Boatswains,
Captains,		Gunners,
Commanders,		Midshipmen,
Lieutenants,		Carpenters.

5. Candidates for the situation of cadets in the Navy shall be natives of the United States, full twelve years old, but not over fourteen, in sound health, free from every defect of vision, and corporeal inefficiency, to which facts one or more surgeons in the Navy must certify. They must be able to read and speak English, and write from dictation, and possess a due knowledge of arithmetic, including the rule of three. On these points, they shall be examined by one or more chaplains, or naval instructors.

6. No person shall be appointed a midshipman who is not full 14 years of age, or over sixteen, and who has not served at least one year at sea as a cadet. Candidates for the appointment of midshipman shall be examined by a surgeon, and two chaplains or naval instructors, whose duty it shall be to ascertain, they possess a good physical constitution and sound health, that they possess a due knowledge of arithmetic, and the use of the quadrant. But no cadet shall be examined who does not produce a certificate of good conduct, and a recommendation from the captain or other commanding officer, with whom he has served. Those cadets who are not found qualified in all respects for midshipmen, after having been two years in the Navy, shall be dismissed from the service. Those who pass their examination shall be arranged in order of merit, and warrants shall be given to the first on the list as vacancies occur ; but no cadet shall be appointed a midshipman, while there are 350 midshipmen and passed-midshipmen in the Navy.

7. No person shall be appointed a lieutenant in the Navy who has not served in sea-going vessels of the Navy as midshipman, at least four years. Candidates for the office of lieutenant in the Navy shall be examined by, or in presence of, five captains or superior officers ; and it shall be the duty of the examiners to satisfy themselves that every candidate has attained the full age of twenty years, that he has a familiar acquaintance with arithmetic and algebra, as applied to the solution of mathematical problems ; that he has a due acquaintance with geometry, plain and spherical trigonometry, surveying, nautical astronomy, and the principles of navigation ; that he is acquainted with seamanship, gunnery, natural philosophy, hydraulics, and the principles of mechanics ; that he is capable of taking charge of a watch at sea, and is in all respects capable and fit to discharge the important duties of a lieutenant in the Navy. But no candidate shall be examined who

shall not produce log-books kept by himself for at least four years, and testimonials of good and gentlemanly conduct, from the commanders with whom he may have served. Those candidates who are not approved by the examining board, shall be at once dismissed from the Navy; those who pass shall be arranged by the board in order of merit, and commissions given to the first on the list, provided there are vacancies in the list of lieutenants, which shall not exceed 350.

8. No person shall be appointed a commander in the Navy, who has not served three years as a lieutenant on board of vessels commissioned for sea service. The number of commanders shall not exceed seventy.

9. No person shall be appointed a captain in the Navy who has not served at least two years in command of a vessel commissioned for sea service. No person shall receive the commission or appointment of a flag-officer who has not served as a captain at least two years. The number of captains shall not exceed forty-five; the number of rear admirals shall not exceed 12, nor the number of vice admirals 6, nor the number of admirals 3.

10. No person shall be appointed an assistant surgeon in the navy, who is less than twenty, or more than twenty-five years of age. Candidates must be citizens of the United States, and be approved by a board of five surgeons. It shall be the duty of the examiners to satisfy themselves that the candidate has sound health, is free from defect in the senses; that his moral character is good, that he possesses a good general and professional education, and is capable of reading and writing English intelligibly, and is in all respects fit to discharge the duties of an assistant surgeon in the Navy. The list of assistant and passed assistant surgeons, shall not exceed 100.

11. No person shall be appointed a surgeon in the Navy who has not served at least two years in a sea-going vessel as assistant surgeon, but all assistant surgeons shall be examined after they have been commissioned five years, and served two years at sea. Candidates for the important office of surgeon in the Navy, shall be examined by a board of surgeons, consisting of not less than five members. The examiners shall satisfy themselves that the candidate is in every respect qualified for discharging the important duty of surgeon in the Navy, and they shall not vote in favor of any of whose qualifications they have any reasonable doubt. Can-

didates who are rejected, shall not be again examined until the lapse of one entire year; and if rejected at a second examination, shall cease to be officers of the Navy. Candidates who are absent at the time those of their date are examined, shall, if approved, retain their original position on the list, unless a majority of the board have been present on the examination of those of their date, in which case the board is authorized to determine their position. Those examined a second time, if they pass, shall take rank with those with whom they may be examined. Assistant surgeons, who may be found qualified for promotion, shall be arranged in the order of merit by the board, and shall be appointed surgeons, provided the number of surgeons and hospital surgeons shall not exceed 85.

12. No person shall be appointed hospital surgeon, who has not been commissioned ten years as a surgeon, and served at least five years at sea, as surgeon and assistant surgeon in the Navy. None but hospital surgeons shall be appointed to flag ships and hospitals, or entitled to perform the duties of fleet surgeon.

13. No person shall be appointed a sub-purser in the Navy, who is not a citizen of the United States. The candidate must be over twenty-one, and not over twenty-eight years of age; he must have served two years as purser's clerk, or one year as purser's clerk, and one year as secretary or clerk to a commanding officer. The candidate for the office of sub-purser shall be examined by three pursers; the examiners shall satisfy themselves that he possesses sound health (by surgeon's certificate), and that he has a reputation for morals and integrity, and has a due knowledge of accounts. The number of sub-pursers in the Navy shall not exceed twenty.

14. No person shall be appointed a purser in the Navy, who has not served at least two years as sub-purser in a sea-going vessel. The candidate for the office of purser shall be examined by five pursers; the examiners shall satisfy themselves that the candidate is acquainted with the duties of purser, and has settled a purser's account at the treasury department, and that he is in all respects fitted to discharge the important duties of purser. Candidates who are approved, shall be arranged by the board in the order of merit, and appointed pursers, provided the number of pursers shall not exceed 65.

15. Candidates for the office of purser, or of sub-purser, who are rejected, shall not be admitted to second examination.

16. The bonds required of sub-pursers shall not be less in amount, than those now or hereafter required from pursers.

17. No person shall be appointed a chaplain in the Navy, who is not an ordained clergyman, and a citizen of the United States. The candidate must be over twenty-five years of age, and not over thirty-five. He must produce a certificate from a surgeon of the Navy, that he has sound health, and he shall produce satisfactory evidence of having received a good education, and is capable of teaching all branches of mathematics, nautical astronomy, and natural philosophy, which midshipmen are required to study ; and on these points, he shall be examined by a board composed of five officers, selected for the purpose, by the Secretary of the Navy.

The number of chaplains shall not exceed twenty-five. No candidate for chaplaincy shall be appointed, who has been examined and once rejected.

18. No person shall be appointed a naval instructor, who is less than twenty-five, or more than thirty-five years of age. The candidate must be a citizen of the United States, and shall produce satisfactory testimonials of his moral character. He shall produce a certificate from a surgeon of the Navy, that he is in sound health, and in all respects physically capable of discharging the duties of a naval instructor at sea. He shall be examined by a board, composed of five officers, selected from the list of chaplains and naval instructors, or either, by the Secretary of the Navy. The examiners shall satisfy themselves of the knowledge of the candidate, and his capability to teach those branches of mathematics, nautical astronomy, and natural philosophy, which midshipmen are required to know before they are promoted to be lieutenants in the Navy ; and that he is, in all respects, qualified to perform the duties of a naval instructor. But no candidate shall be examined a second time, nor shall the number of naval instructors exceed twenty-five.

19. A naval college should be established, consisting of (1) a professorship of nautical astronomy and navigation, (2) a professorship of mathematics and natural philosophy ; (3) a professorship of seamanship and gunnery ; (4) a professorship of chemistry and natural history ; (5) a professorship of international law and belles-lettres, and (6) a professorship of modern languages, including French, German, and Spanish.

20. The professors shall be selected from among the officers

of the Navy, as far as competent men can be found among them, desirous of the situations ; but no professor of the naval college shall be eligible to command a navy yard, or other shore station, until he shall have resigned his professorship, and subsequently served at least two years at sea.

21. No midshipman, or other officer, shall be admitted into the naval college for a longer period than one year, prior to having passed all examinations required of him by law. All pupils in the college shall not receive more than the furlough pay assigned them by law ; and the difference between this amount and leave of absence pay, shall be paid into a fund for the support of the college.

All persons who wilfully avoid examination, or purposely absent themselves when notified to attend, shall be considered to have failed to pass an examination.

Whether a naval college or school shall be established or not, let it be the solemn duty of examining boards, never to approve any candidate, who has not acquired a full and thorough professional knowledge. With these boards rests the responsibility, whether the sea-officers of the Navy are seamen—sailors ; men who are familiar with ships from stem to stern, from keelson to truck. If the board will exclude all who cannot prove themselves to be sailors, and possess the knowledge that every accomplished sailor ought to have, the writer feels certain the knowledge can and will be found ; even though there be neither school, college, nor professor in the Navy. Demand will bring supply. The medical officer finds increased knowledge for the ordeal of a second examination for promotion ; yet for him the government has manifested no solicitude on this score ;—it has provided him neither college, preceptor, nor books ; nay, not even salary enough, beyond what is requisite for his support, to pay for the books he must necessarily study, or fail at his examination. Let the board be held responsible, that there shall be no man a lieutenant in the Navy, who is not thoroughly instructed in the duties of a seaman ; never let it be suspected, there is even the chance of a lieutenant's commission being held by any man who is not perfectly at home on a ship's deck, whether in the " battle or the breeze."

Is it certain that every man who has passed his examination for a lieutenant's commission, can be trusted in charge of a watch at sea,

night or day ? Let captains and commanders of experience answer the question.

In the above sketch, many points may have been omitted of great importance ; but as it is merely designed to indicate the kind of re-organization that seems to be required, and not to present an entire plan in all its parts and details, any criticism it may provoke on this account, may be set down to hostility to the cause we have feebly attempted to advocate—the common cause of the whole Navy and of the Country.

A re-organization of the Navy on the plan proposed, will require some modification in the scale of pay. In our humble view, the minimum might be as follows :—

<i>Military Branch.</i>	<i>Waiting Orders.</i>	<i>Shore Duty.</i>	<i>Sea-Service.</i>
Admirals,	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$6,500
Vice-admirals,	2,500	3,000	5,000
Rear-admirals,	2,400	2,800	4,000
Captains,	2,000	2,600	3,000
Commanders,	1,800	2,100	2,500
Lieutenants,	1,000	1,200	1,600
Masters,	750	900	1,100
Second Masters,	—	600	750
Passed-midshipmen,	500	600	800
Masters' Mates,	300	400	500
Boatswains,	360	500	700
Gunners,	360	500	700
Midshipmen,	200	250	350
Carpenters,	360	500	700
Sailmakers,	360	500	700
Cadets,	100	150	200
<i>Civil Branch.</i>			
Hospital Surgeons,—1st five years,	1,800	2,200	2,400
“ “ 2d five years,	2,000	2,400	2,600
“ “ 3d five years,	2,200	2,600	3,000
“ “ over 15 years,	2,300	2,700	3,500
Surgeons,—1st five years,	1,200	1,400	1,600
“ 2d five years,	1,400	1,600	1,800
“ over ten years,	1,600	1,800	2,000
Passed Assistant-surgeons,	850	1,100	1,200
Assistant-surgeons,	650	800	950

The pay of medical officers to be reckoned from the date of their assistant-surgeons' commission.

The pay of fleet-surgeons to be one-half more than the leave of absence pay to which they are respectively entitled.

Chaplains,	800	1,200	1,500
Secretaries to flag-officers,	—	1,000	1,500
Naval Instructors,	600	900	1,300

Pursers,—on leave, 1st five years, 1000 ; 2d five years, 1200 ; 3d 5 years, 1400 ; 4th 5 years, 1600 ; over 20 years, 1800.

“ of ships-of-the-line, 4,000

“ of frigates or razees, 3,000

“ of sloops and steamers of 1st class, 2,000

“ employed at Boston, New York, Norfolk and Pensacola, 2,500

“ “ Portsmouth, Philadelphia and Washington, 2,000

Sub-pursers,—waiting orders, 500 ; shore duty, 1,000 ; sea duty, 1,600.

Clerks,—to captains, 900 1,000

“ to commanders, 500 600

“ to navy yards, 900

“ 2d “ “ 750

“ to pursers, from 500 to 750.

	<i>Leave.</i>	<i>Shore Duty.</i>	<i>Sea-Service.</i>
Chief-Engineers,	1,000	1,200	1,500
First assistant,	700	800	900
Second assistant,	500	550	600
Third assistant,	350	400	500

Furlough-pay one-half of the sea-pay ; one ration a day when at sea, and ten cents a mile for travel under orders, to be allowed as at present.

A smaller rate of pay would not secure proper persons for the service: the above rate is below that of the British service, in many respects.*

The most economical policy to secure the best service is to pay well all employed, but limit the number receiving pay to as few as possible.

One word in conclusion: we beg the reader to remember all the Navy has done in times past, and to regard this as an indication of what it can and will do, in times present or to come, should its services in war be required. Let not the Navy ask in vain for the fostering care it requires and deserves, at the hands of the country. That officers of the Navy are individually faultless, it would be unreasonable to assert; but it can be safely affirmed, there is no body of citizens more devoted, more gallant, more patriotic, or more virtuous, in every respect, than officers of the Navy, as a class; and we ought not to attribute the defects or faults

of the organization, or rather the want of organization, to the officers themselves, either individually or as a body. It is the writer's pleasure to believe, that, as a body, the officers of the Navy would be glad of any re-organization which promises to add efficiency to this branch of the national defence; and should the suggestions of the writer, directly or indirectly, lead to any improvement, his object will be attained. He hopes his views may be honored by the calm scrutiny of all interested; and that his errors, and he fears they are numerous, may be carefully pointed out; but he begs to be fairly opposed by reason, and not by mere prejudice. He conscientiously seeks the good of the whole Navy; and would not take away one iota from the legitimate authority of any class or grade, although he honestly believes that all should be alike protected in their respective limits, to promote and secure the harmony of that glorious band, the Navy of the United States.

APPENDIX.

For the convenience of those who may feel interested in the subject, the following details have been added in this Appendix :

A. The relative rank of the officers of the Army and Navy of the United States, as generally recognized in the Navy.

B. The relative rank of the officers of the Navy and Army of Great Britain.

C. The relative rank and precedence of the ship's company, in the British Navy.

D. Annual pay of the British Navy.

E. Table of British precedence.

F. Information for persons desirous of entering the medical department of the navy of the United States.

G. Form of commission given to officers of the navy of the United States.



Relative rank of the officers of the Army and Navy of the United States, according to the 11th article of "General Regulations for the Navy and marine corps of the United States," printed by authority of the Navy Department. 1841.

"The military officers of the land and sea services of the United States shall rank together as follows :

Passed midshipmen with second lieutenants of the Army.

Masters with first lieutenants of the Army.

Lieutenants of the Navy with captains of the Army.

Commanders of the Navy with majors of the Army.

Captains of the Navy of five years standing, with colonels of the Army.

Captains of the navy of fifteen years standing, with major generals of the Army.

But should higher grades be created in the Navy than commodores, or those captains only who may be appointed to the command of a squadron, shall rank with brigadiers general of the Army.

Rear admirals with major generals.

Vice admirals with lieutenant generals, and

Admirals with generals."

Surgeons in the Army rank as majors.

Assistant surgeons, over five years standing, } as captains ;
that is, passed assistant surgeons,

Assistant surgeons as lieutenants.

Paymasters, } as majors.
Quartermasters,

Consequently,

Surgeons in the Army, }
Paymasters, } Rank with commanders in the Navy.
Quarter masters,

Passed assistant surgeons in the Army rank with lieutenants in the Navy.

Assistant surgeons in the Army, rank with masters in the Navy.

If a commander in the Navy recognizes a surgeon in the Army to be, as he is, on a footing, as respects rank, why should he consider a surgeon of the Navy as his inferior in rank ?

Why should the medical corps of the Navy be held inferior to the medical corps of the Army as respects rank ?

In regard to other civil officers the same question may be asked.

B.RELATIVE RANK OF OFFICERS OF THE NAVY AND ARMY, ACCORDING TO
BRITISH REGULATIONS.

Admirals of the Fleet shall rank with Field Marshals of the Army.

Admirals with Generals.

Vice Admirals with Lieutenant Generals.

Rear Admirals with Major Generals.

Commodores of the first class,
Commodores of the second class,
Director General of the Medical
Department of the Navy, } with Brigadier Generals.

Captains, after three years from the dates of their first commissions as
Captains, with Colonels.

All other Captains,
Medical Inspectors of Hospitals and Fleets, } with Lieutenant Colonels.

Commanders,
Secretaries to Flag Officers, commanding in chief,
Deputy Medical Inspectors of Hospitals and Fleets, } with Majors.

Lieutenants,
Masters of the Fleet,
Masters,
Chaplains,
Secretaries to junior Flag Officers, and
Commodores of the first class,
Surgeons,
Paymasters and Pursers,
Mates,
Assistant Surgeons, } with Captains.
Second Master, }
Midshipmen, } with Lieutenants.

} with Ensigns.

C.

QUEEN'S REGULATION RELATIVE TO SHIP'S COMPANY.

"In a ship's company there shall be petty officers and others of the classes and denominations specified in the following scheme, and they shall rank in the order in which they stand in the said scheme, and those of the same denomination, according to the dates of their ratings in the ship's books :

FIRST CLASS.

Working Petty Officers of First Class.

Master-at-Arms,	Seamen's Schoolmaster,
Ship's Corporal,	Sail-maker,
Admiral's Coxswain,	Rope-maker,
Gunner's Mate,	Captain of Hold,
Captain's Coxswain,	Coxswain of Launch,
Quartermaster,	Carpenter's Mate,
Boatswain's Mate,	Caulker,
Captain of Forecastle,	Blacksmith,
Captain of Maintop,	Leading Stoker,
Captain of Foretop,	Ship's Cook.

SECOND CLASS.

Working Petty Officers of Second Class.

Captain of Mast,	Cooper,
Captain of Afterguard,	Armourer,
Captain of Mizen-top,	Caulker's Mate,
Yeoman of Signals,	Paymaster and Purser's Steward,
Coxswain of Pinnace,	Musician.
Sail-maker's Mate,	

Remainder of Ship's Company.

Able Seamen,	Painter,
Sail-maker's Crew,	Ordinary Seamen,
Carpenter's Crew,	Paymaster and Purser's Steward's
Cooper's Crew,	Mate,
Stoker and Coal Trimmer,	Cook's Mate,
Yeoman of Store-rooms,	Barber,
Sick Berth Attendant,	Landman,
Captain's Steward,	Engineer Boy,
Captain's Cook,	Paymaster and Purser's Steward's
Ward-room or Gun-room Steward,	Boy,
Ward-room or Gun-room Cook,	Boy of First Class,
Subordinate Officers' Steward,	Boy of Second Class.
Subordinate Officers' Cook,	

D.

ANNUAL PAY OF THE BRITISH NAVY.

(Derived from the "New Navy List;" calculated at the rate of 4 shillings to the dollar.)

	<i>Full Pay.</i>	<i>Half-Pay.</i>	<i>Widows' Pension for Life.</i>
Admiral of the fleet,	\$16,425	\$5,748 75	\$600
Admirals,	5,475	3,832 50	600
Vice-admirals,	5,475	2,965 50	600
Rear-admirals,	5,475	2,281 25	600
Captains,—1st 100 on the list,	1,992	1,323 00	450
" next 150,	1,992	1,140 50	450
" the rest,	1,992	958 00	450
Commanders,—1st 150 on the list,	1,495	912 50	350
" the rest,	1,495	775 50	350
Lieutenants,—1st 300,	910	638 75	250
" next 700,	910	547 50	250
" the rest,	910	456 25	250
Masters,	1,069 50	638 75	200
Mates,	455 25	— —	—
Midshipmen,	156	— —	—
Cadets,	49	— —	—
Secretaries,—(after 12 years' service,)	2,007 50	1,095 00	—
Pursers, { from	744 50	— —	—
{ to	4,281 75	— —	—
" to each of the 1st 50 on the list,		638 75	200
" to each of the next 100,		547 50	200
" to each of the remainder,		456 25	200
Chaplains,	796 25	456 25	200
Naval Instructors,	638 75	182 25	—
" " after 3 years,	683 87	273 50	—
" " above 10 years,	912 50	410 50	—
" " above 20 years,	912 50	501 75	—

Chaplains and naval instructors receive, in addition, \$25 yearly for every midshipman or cadet they instruct, which is paid by the pupil.

Besides the above, there are good-service bounty, extra pay for extra service, compassionate allowance money, &c. &c. Widows who are left in good circumstances are not entitled to pension. On this point the decision rests with the admiralty. If an officer dies a violent death in the line of his duty, his widow is entitled to receive, besides a pension for her loss, a sum equal to one year's full pay of her husband, at the time of his death.

PAY OF MEDICAL OFFICERS.

	<i>Full-Pay.</i>	<i>Half-Pay.</i>	<i>Widows' Pension.</i>
Inspectors of hospitals and fleets, on first appointment,	\$3,011 25	\$1,368 75	\$300
Inspectors, after 10 years' service,	3,832 50	1,916 25	300
Deputy Inspec. of hospitals and fleets,	2,463 75	1,368 75	300
Surgeons,	1,003 75	456 25	200
" above 6 years,	1,095 00	547 50	200
" above 10 years,	1,277 50	638 75	200
" above 15 years,	1,277 50	730 00	200
" above 20 years,	1,652 50	912 50	200
" above 25 yrs. (leave to retire)	1,642 50	1,196 25	200
" above 30 yrs. " " "	1,642 50	1,378 75	200
Assistant-surgeons,	638 75	182 25	180
" " above 3 years,	683 87	273 50	180
" " above 10 years,	821 25	410 50	180
" " above 20 years,	912 50	501 75	180

Surgeons are paid according to their length of service, including the whole time as assistant-surgeon.

An assistant-surgeon who is not promoted until the end of ten years, the moment he is promoted receives the pay of a surgeon of ten years' standing. A medical officer who enters the Navy at twenty-one years of age, may retire to private practice at the age of forty-six, on a half-pay of \$1,196 25 annually, and the certainty of \$200 yearly for his widow.

E.

TABLE OF BRITISH PRECEDENCE.

The King's children and grand-children,	Speaker of the house of commons,
The king's brothers,	Lords commissioners of the great seal,
" uncles,	Viscounts' eldest sons,
" nephews,	Earls' youngest sons,
Archbishop of Canterbury,	Barons' eldest sons,
Lord chancellor, or keeper, if a baron,	Knights of the garter,
Archbishop of York,	Privy counsellors,
Lord Treasurer,	Chancellor of the exchequer,
Lord president of the council, if a baron,	Chancellor of the duchy,
Lord privy seal,	Chief justice of the king's bench,
Lord great chamberlain,	Master of the rolls,
Lord high constable,	Chief justice of the common pleas,
Lord marshal,	Chief baron of the exchequer,
Lord Admiral,	Judges and barons of the coif,
Lord steward of the household,	Knights bannerets royal,
Lord chamberlain of the household,	Viscounts' younger sons,
Dukes,	Barons' younger sons,
Marquises,	Baronets,
Dukes' eldest sons,	Knights baronets,
Earls,	Knight of the Bath,
Marquises' eldest sons,	Knights bachelors,
Dukes' youngest sons,	Baronets' eldest sons,
Viscounts,	Knights' eldest sons,
Earls' eldest sons,	Baronets' younger sons,
Marquises' youngest sons,	Knights' younger sons,
Secretary of state, if a bishop,	Colonel,
Bishop of London,	Sergeants at law,
" Durham,	Doctors,
" of Winchester,	Esquires,
Bishop,	Gentlemen,
Secretary of state, if a baron,	Yeomen,
Barons,	Tradesmen,
	Artificers,
	Laborers.

The preceding table may be found in Chitty's Blackstone.

"These, Sir Edward Coke says, are all the names of *dignity* in this kingdom, *esquires* and *gentlemen* being only names of worship. But before these last, the heralds rank all *colonels*, serjeants at law, and *doctors*, in the three learned professions.

"Esquires and gentlemen are confounded together, by Sir Edward Coke, who observes that every esquire is a gentleman, and a gentleman is defined to be one *qui arma gerit*, who bears coat armor, the grant of which adds gentility to a man's family; in like manner as civil nobility, among the

Romans, was founded on the *jus imaginum*, or having the image of one ancestor at least, who had borne some curule office. It is indeed a matter somewhat unsettled, what constitutes the distinction, or who is a real *esquire*; for it is not an estate, however large, that confers this rank on its owner. Camden, who was himself a herald, distinguishes them the most accurately; and he reckons up four sorts of them. 1. The eldest sons of knights, and their eldest sons, in perpetual succession. 2. The eldest sons of the youngest sons of peers, and their eldest sons, in like perpetual succession: both which species of esquires, Sir Henry Spelman entitles *armigeri notalitii*. 3. Esquires created by the king's letters patent, or other investure, and their eldest sons. 4. Esquires by virtue of their offices: as justices of the peace, and others who bear any office of trust under the crown. To these may be added the esquires of Knights of the Bath, each of whom constitutes three at his installation: and all foreign, nay Irish peers; for not only these, but the eldest sons of peers of Great Britain, though frequently titular lords, are only esquires in the law, and must be so named in all legal proceedings. As for *gentlemen*, says Sir Thomas Smith, they may be made good cheap in this kingdom; for whosoever studieth the laws of the realm, who studieth in the universities, who possesseth the liberal sciences, and (to be short) who can live idly, and without manual labor, he shall be called master, and shall be taken for a gentleman. A *yeoman* is he who hath free land of forty shillings by the year; who was anciently thereby qualified to serve on juries, vote for knights of the shire, and do any other act where the law requires one that is *probus et legalis homo*."

F.

INFORMATION FOR PERSONS DESIROUS OF ENTERING THE MEDICAL
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

It is prescribed by law, that no one shall be appointed in this branch of the service who has not been examined, and found qualified, by a Board of Naval Surgeons, designated by the Secretary of the Navy, for that purpose. This designation is made at such times as the wants of the service render necessary; when selections are made by the Secretary of the number of individuals he may deem it proper to have examined. To the persons thus selected, permissions are given to present themselves to the Board for examination. These permissions state the time and place of the meeting of the Board. The Board rigidly scrutinizes the pretensions of each candidate; taking into consideration his physical qualifications and moral habits, as well as his professional acquirements; and reports favorably upon no case admitting of a reasonable doubt, as the health and lives of the officers, seamen, and marines, are objects too important to be committed to ignorant and incompetent hands. The Board reports the relative merit of the candidates, as shown by the examination. Those of whose qualifications the Board is satisfied, are appointed Assistant Surgeons, as their services are required.

Candidates of whom the Board make an unfavorable report, are allowed a second examination if they desire it; when, if they again fail, their names are dropped from the list of applicants.

No allowance is made for the expenses of persons undergoing these examinations ; as they are indispensable pré-requisites to appointment.

Applications must be addressed to the Secretary of the Navy; must state the age and residence of the applicant, and must be accompanied by respectable testimonials of his possessing the moral and physical qualifications requisite for filling creditably the responsible station, and for performing ably the arduous and active duties which will be required of him.

The application of no one will be considered, whose age is under twenty-one or over twenty-eight years.

The pay of Assistant Surgeons and Surgeons is established by act of Congress, approved on the 3d March, 1835; and is as follows:—

ASSISTANT SURGEONS.

Waiting orders,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$650 00
At sea,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	950 00
After passing and found qualified for promotion to surgeon,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	850 00
At sea,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,200 00
When stationed at navy yards, hospitals, rendezvous, and receiving ships,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	950 00
After being passed, and stationed as above,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,150 00

SURGEONS.

For the first five years after the date of his commission,	-	1,000	00
For the second five years, - - - - -	-	1,200	00
For the third five years, - - - - -	-	1,400	00
For the fourth five years, - - - - -	-	1,600	00
After he shall have been commissioned as a surgeon twenty years and upwards, - - - - -	-	1,800	00

All surgeons of the Navy under orders for duty at navy yards, receiving vessels, rendezvous, or naval hospitals, shall have an increase of one fourth of the foregoing amount of their respective annual pay, from the date of their acceptance of such orders.

All surgeons of the Navy ordered to any of the ships or vessels of the United States commissioned for sea service, shall have an increase of one third of the foregoing amount of their respective annual pay, from the date of their acceptance of such orders.

All surgeons of the navy, ordered as fleet surgeons, shall have an increase of one half of their respective annual pay, from the date of their acceptance of such orders.

In addition to the above, surgeons and assistant surgeons are allowed one ration per day when attached to vessels for sea service, and ten cents per mile for travelling expenses, if under orders of the department.

No person can be appointed a surgeon until he shall have served two years on board a public vessel, at sea, and unless also he shall have been examined and approved by a board of surgeons constituted as aforesaid.

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Secretary of the Navy.

G.

FORM OF COMMISSION GIVEN TO NAVAL OFFICERS.

President of the United States of America.

To all who shall see these presents, Greeting: Know ye, That reposing special trust and confidence in the patriotism, valor, fidelity and abilities, of ———, I do appoint him ——— in the Navy, in the service of the United States. He is, therefore, carefully and diligently to discharge the duties of ———, by doing and performing all manner of things thereunto belonging. And I do strictly charge and require, all officers, seamen and marines, under his command, to be obedient to his orders, as ———. And he is to observe and follow such orders and directions, from time to time, as he shall receive from me, or the future President of the United States of America, or his superior officer set over him; according to the rules and discipline of the Navy. This commission to continue in force during the pleasure of the President of the United States, for the time being.

By command of the
President of the
United States of
America.

Given under my hand, at Washington, this ——— day of
——, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred ———, and in the ——— year of the Independence of
the United States.

